...where troops from a rather ***mediocre*** village are getting their ***pancakes*** handed to them by the ***greatest village*** in all the land—

—the *village* of **TRIUMPHICA!**

Wow! Look at those ***Triumphica Barbarians*** go!

GRRRAAAUGH!

And their ***Wizards!***

FIREBALL!

FIREBALL!

And their ***Goblins!***

HEE HEE!

(Eech. What ***creeps.)***

HEE HEE!

Awe-inspiring, isn't it? Seriously, has your ***awe*** ever been so ***inspired?***

Listen, ***Chief,*** I'm going to let you in on a ***secret.***

You see how Triumphica's troops all stay ***separate?*** The ***Barbarians*** with the ***Barbarians,*** the ***Wizards*** with the ***Wizards,*** and so on?

That's why they keep ***winning!*** Every troop can concentrate on what makes them ***special,*** without worrying about ***anybody else!***

Sort of like a ***mess hall tray,*** y'know? How ***gross*** is it when your ***peas*** get mixed into your ***chopped steak?***

DUDE! STAY IN YOUR OWN SECTION!

No troop likes ***that*** kind of ***mess!***

A good chopped steak is ***something else,*** though, isn't it? Boy—

WHAT IS ***THAT?!***

Yesss!

RUMBLE RUMBLE

Remember what I said about ***eye protection?***

As soon as you turn the page, ***you are going to need it!***

Chief, I present to you the ***glory*** of Triumphica and the ***terror*** of their enemies!

Here come Triumphica's ***legendary—***

nay, ***legendariously*** legendary...

HOG RIDERS!

SNORT!

SNORT!

SNORT!

FEATURING THE

ALL-STAR HOG RIDERS!

CRASHER
THE CANTANKEROUS!

SMASHER
THE SMOLDERING!

And the *Captain* of the Triumphica Hog Riders,

standing at *six-foot-five* and weighing in at *260 pounds* of what we're reasonably sure is *pure, unmedicated muscle*—

—the *allest-star* of the all-stars—

ROKKUS
THE RAGEFUL!

SWEET LOGMAS.

WE ARE *SO* FFF—

—FORTUNATE!

WE GET TO HAVE OUR **PANCAKES** HANDED TO US BY **ROKKUS THE RAGEFUL?!**

POW

IT'S EVERYTHING I DREAMED IT'D BE!

BEFORE YOU KNOCK ME INTO THE NEXT VILLAGE, CAN YOU PLEASE AUTOGRAPH MY HAT?

FINE.

MAKE IT SAY, "TO STAN, MAY YOUR HEART'S EVERY DESIRE COME TRUE EVEN THOUGH YOUR CHEST IS AS EMPTY AS A—"

SIGNATURE'S ALL YOU GET.

GREAT! EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED!

POW

THANK YOUUUUUUUUUUU!!!

FOOL FORGOT HIS PEN.

KEEP IT!

MR. CANTANKEROUS! MIGHT I TROUBLE YOU FOR AN AUTOGRAPH?

MR. SMOLDERING, IF YOU DON'T MIND?

MR. RAGEFUL—

ALL RIGHT, LAST ONE! WE GOTTA GET STARTED!

HOG RIDERS ARE SUCH SHOW-OFFS.

YEAH.

WISH I WAS ONE OF 'EM, THOUGH.

YEAH.

ENOUGH!

TIME TO DROP THE HAMMER!

HOG RIDERS!!

Ha ha! Are your eyeballs *smacked,* or what?!

MAKE 'EM SEE *STARS,* RIDERS!

POW POW POW

I'LL TREASURE THIS MOMENT FOREVERRR!

LET'S GO, PIM PIM!

PLEASE?!

MPH.

Wait. Why are you paying attention to that little guy on the hill?!

LOOK, I KNOW THEM OTHER HOGS CAN BE ***JERKWADS!***

JUST LIKE THEIR ***RIDERS.***

BUT NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO SHOW ROKKUS WE'RE AS ***TOUGH*** AS ANY OF 'EM, RIGHT?

:Sigh:

Trust me, Chief, follow this guy and the ***eye-smacking*** is ***over!*** Because this guy is a ***dweeb!***

HA HA! THAT'S IT, LITTLE BUDDY!

LET'S GO GET IT!

HEY! TERRY AND HIS LITTLE ***HOGLET*** FINALLY ***SHOWED UP!***

SHUT YOUR FACE, SMASHER! AND THE NAME IS ***TERRODICUS!***

YOU CAN'T HAVE A NAME THAT'S BIGGER 'N YOU, ***TERRY!***

TERRY! WHY WEREN'T YOU PART OF THE ***GRAND ENTRANCE?!***

SORRY, CAPTAIN ROKKUS! PIM PIM AND I HAD TO, UH...WORK SOME STUFF OUT!

AND THE NAME IS ***TERRODICUS.***

ONE ***WIZARD TOWER*** LEFT! AS IS OUR TRADITION, WE'LL TAKE DOWN THAT LAST STRUCTURE AS A ***UNIT!***

autograph?

DEADLY CREAM PUFF FORMATION, RIDERS!

SMASHER, CRASHER, AND I WILL FORM THE ***RICH AND CREAMY CENTER,*** WHILE THE REST OF YOU FORM THE ***DELIGHTFULLY FLAKY OUTSIDE!***

TIME TO DROP THE HAMMER!

HOG RIDERS!

COME ON, PIM PIM! LET'S GO GET IT!

TERRY! STAY IN FORMATION! YOUR LITTLE HOGLET'S TAKING YOU STRAIGHT INTO A—

AW, FFF—

?!

SPROING!

—FUDGE BISCUITS!

Oink...?

:Sigh.: See what I mean, Chief? Everything after this is a ***disaster,*** so ***do not*** turn the page. How about you flip back to ***Page 8*** instead?

I cannot. ***Believe.*** You turned the page.

PIM PIM, MAYBE YOU WERE ***RIGHT*** TO STAY ON THAT HILL.

Oink oink!

Don't want to listen to your narrator? ***Fine!***

Oink oink oink!

"DON'T GIVE UP"?! IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, WE'RE IN ***MIDAIR!***

Have fun reading about that ***dweeb*** Rider and his ***dweeb*** hoglet!

LIKE TWO CANNONBALLS MADE OF ***MEAT*** INSTEAD OF ***METAL!***

Oink!

HEY...

WE'RE TWO CANNONBALLS MADE OF MEAT INSTEAD OF METAL!

Oink oink oink!

HA HA! THAT'S IT! COME ON, PIM PIM!

Oink!

LET'S GO GET IT!

Oink!

FIREBALL!

FIRE—

HOG RIDERS!

=MMPH!=

KRASH

WE DID IT, PIM PIM!

Squeal!

I KNOW, RIGHT?

SO MUCH FUN!

LOOK, CAPTAIN ROKKUS!

WE MADE THE *WHOLE VILLAGE* SEE STARS!

HOG RIDERS!!

Waaah!

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, CAPTAIN, WHAT KINDA ***GOBLIN DOOKIE*** IS THIS?! PIM PIM AND I TOOK DOWN THAT LAST WIZARD TOWER, NOT ***BLAMM!***

HECK, I BET BLAMM DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT ***"BELLICOSE"*** MEANS!

MEANS I GOT A ***COZY BELLY...*** RIGHT?

TERRY, WHEN WE'RE ON THE BATTLEFIELD, WHAT'S MY ***CATCHPHRASE?***

"TIME TO DROP THE HAMMER."

THAT'S RIGHT! DROP THE ***HAMMER!*** NOT THE ***HOG BUTT!*** THE ***HAMMER!***

YET YOU TOOK OUT THAT LAST ***WIZARD*** WITH YOUR ***HOG'S BUTT!***

IT ***WORKED,*** DIDN'T IT?!

DOESN'T MATTER! YOU BROKE ***DEADLY CREAM PUFF FORMATION!*** AND LOOKED LIKE A ***FOOL!***

FALLIN' OUTTA THE SKY LIKE SOME KINDA ***MOHAWKED HAILSTONE!***

YOU WANNA BE A ***TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER,*** YOU DO THINGS THE ***TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER WAY!***

I GOT A ***"THE" PART*** YOU CAN START USING IN YOUR NAME RIGHT NOW: TERRY ***THE TWERPY!*** HA!

:Snicker!:

:Snicker!:

WE ALL KNOW HOW A HOG RIDER LIKE ***YOU*** GOT TO BE IN TRIUMPHICA ***AT ALL!***

LATER, TWERPY!

HA HA HA!

TERRY, WAIT!

TERRY...
TERRODICUS.
CAPTAIN ROKKUS.
YOU CAN DROP THE "CAPTAIN." NO ONE ELSE IS AROUND.
I KNOW PEOPLE LOOK AT ME AND THINK, "MAN, BEING ROKKUS MUST BE SO AMAZING!"
AND IT IS, MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.
BUT IT ISN'T EASY. LEADING AN ORGANIZATION AS LEGENDARY—NAY, LEGENDARIOUSLY LEGENDARY—AS THE TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDERS IS A SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY!
I GOTTA TELL YOU, SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE I WANT YOU TO BE IN TRIUMPHICA MORE THAN YOU DO!
WELL...
I WANT WHAT YOU WANT, ROKKUS.
ALWAYS HAVE.
CAN'T SAY I BLAME YOU! HA HA!
WHICH IS WHY I GOT YOU A PRESENT!
COME ON OUT!
IT'S HIGH TIME YOU TRADED UP FOR A HOG WORTHY OF TRIUMPHICA! HER NAME IS TOGG!
SNORT!
WHAT?!
Squeal...?

ROKKUS, ***YOU'RE*** THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME THAT THE BOND BETWEEN HOG AND RIDER IS ***SACRED!***

YEAH, BUT ONLY IF—

I'M NOT TRADING!

...

GO ON, TOGG.

Snort!

LOOK, YOU'VE GOTTA ***PROVE*** THAT YOU'RE ONE OF ***US!*** IF YOU WOULD JUST...

WAIT A MINUTE... THAT ***VILLAGE*** BELOW...

MY BINOCULARS, ROGG!

NEVER PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO 'EM EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE SO CLOSE. DIDN'T SEEM WORTH THE ***EFFORT...***

AND I WAS ***RIGHT!*** THOSE ***WALLS*** HAVEN'T BEEN REPAIRED IN ***AGES!***

AND THE NAME... LET'S SEE... ***JAZZYPICKLETON?!***

JAZZYPICKLETON

HA! WITH A ***NAME*** LIKE THAT, IT'S ***PERFECT,*** TERRY!

PERFECT FOR ***WHAT?***

PERFECT FOR YOU TO FINALLY EARN SOME ***RESPECT.***

TOMORROW MORNING, I'M GONNA PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THE OTHER ***ALL-STARS!***

YOU'RE GONNA GO HAND THIS ***JAZZYPICKLETON*** THEIR ***PANCAKES!*** AND YOU'RE GONNA DO IT THE ***RIGHT*** WAY, THE ***TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER WAY!***

USE THE ***LETHAL LAYER CAKE FORMATION,*** MAYBE? OR ***MORTAL DONUT?*** YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.

IN CHARGE OF THE ***ALL-STARS?*** ROKKUS, I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

FOOL. JUST SAY, ***"YES, CAPTAIN!"***

YES, CAPTAIN!

HA HA! BUT LISTEN, IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, I REALLY WANT YOU TO CONSIDER TRADING—

IT'LL WORK OUT! I MEAN, THE ***ALL-STARS!***

AND, HEY...

...BIG BROTHER...

THANK YOU.

DON'T MENTION IT, LITTLE BROTHER.

WE'RE ***FAMILY.***

SLEEP WELL TONIGHT, ***JAZZYPICKLETON!*** BECAUSE TOMORROW—

I AM COMING FOR YOUR PANCAKES!

TODAY IS A ***GREAT*** DAY, MY FELLOW HOG RIDERS! A DAY THAT WILL BE ***REMEMBERED FOREVER!***

BECAUSE TODAY, THE ***LEGENDARY***— NAY, ***LEGENDARIOUSLY*** LEGENDARY—TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDERS ARE GONNA FINALLY HAND OUR ***ARCHENEMY,*** THE NOTORIOUSLY NOTORIOUS ***JAZZYPICKLETON,*** THEIR PANCAKES!

JAZZYPICKLETON? NEVER HEARD OF 'EM.

LOOK AT THOSE ***BUSTED-UP*** WALLS!

I ALMOST FEEL ***SORRY*** FOR 'EM!

JUST—JUST ***FOLLOW MY LEAD,*** ALL RIGHT?

WE'RE DOING THE ***CHOCOLATE-DIPPED SHORTBREAD COOKIE FORMATION!*** YOU THREE FORM THE ***SATISFYINGLY SPONGY COOKIE,*** WHILE I FORM THE ***DELECTABLE CANDY-COVERED TIP!***

REMIND ME WHY WE'RE PUTTIN' UP WITH THIS ***FOOLISHNESS?***

SAME REASON WE PUT UP WITH TWERPY ***AT ALL.***

ROKKUS ASKED US TO.

:Psst!: PIM PIM, ARE THEY ACTUALLY FOLLOWING?

Oink!

YESSS!

Oink oink?

NO, PIM PIM!

I KNOW WE HAD FUN WITH THAT LAST ***SPRING TRAP,*** BUT IT'S NOT THE TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER WAY!

Oink oink!

THAT'S IT, LITTLE BUDDY!

TIME TO DROP THE HAMMER!

Hog Riders.

Hog Riders.

HOG RIDERS!

SMASH!

WHOA! TWERPY—I MEAN, *TERRODICUS* HAS ACTUALLY GOT AN *ARM* ON HIM!

HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT HE KINDA REMINDS ME OF—

CAPTAIN ROKKUS!

I GOT THIS *HANDLED!*

YOU RIDERS GO AROUND TO THE *OTHER SIDE!*

YOU HEARD HIM!

HOG RIDERS!

POK

POW

POW

HA HA! TOWN HALL, HERE WE COME!

WHAM!

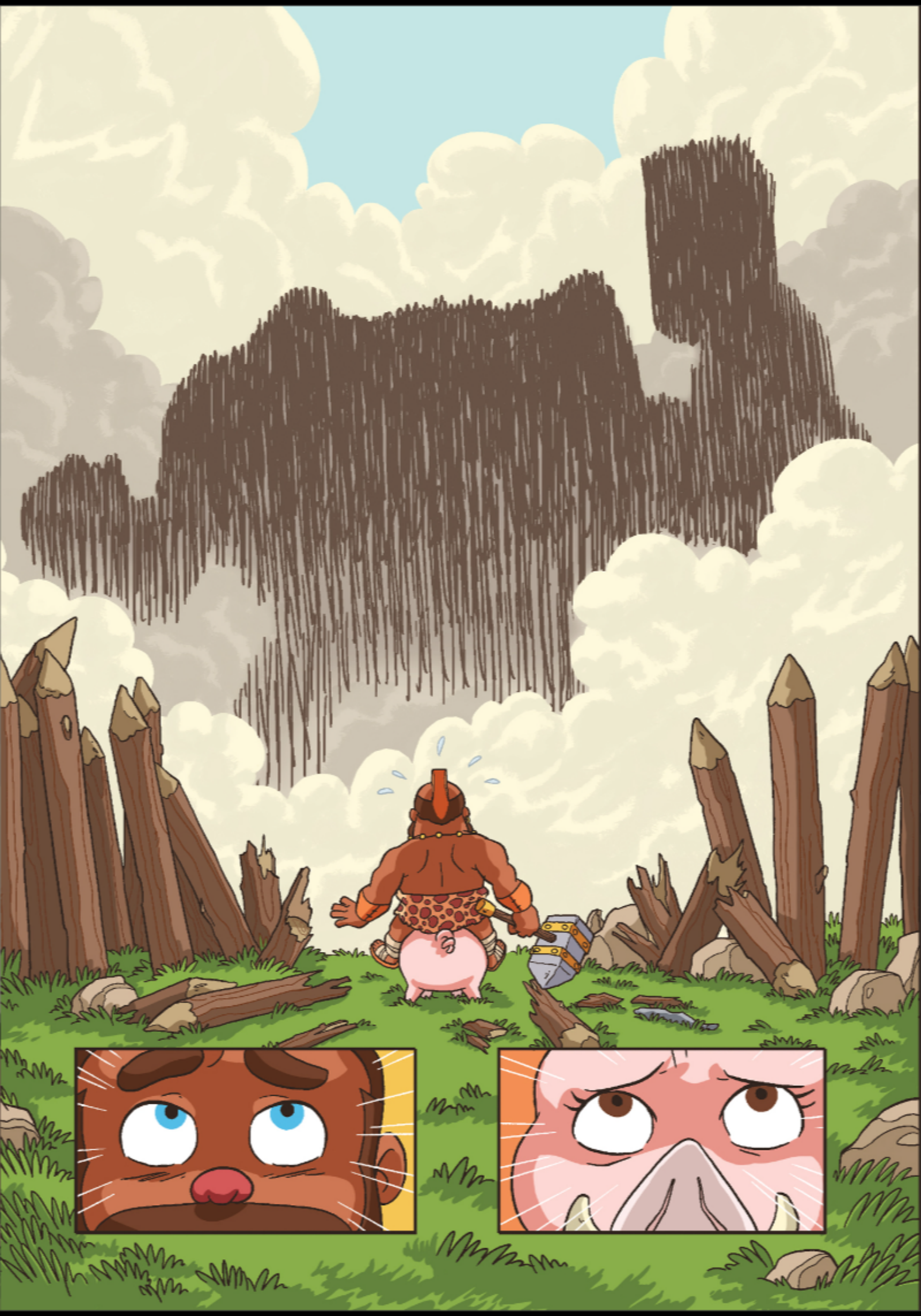
Oink! Oink!

HEY, PIM PIM, WHAT SOUNDS BETTER, TERRODICUS THE *TERRIFIC* OR TERRODICUS THE *TERRIFYING?*

Oink.

OOH! I KNOW! HOW ABOUT TERRODICUS *THE TERRIFICIFYING?*

Oink.



KRA-BOOOM!

KRA-BOOOM!

KRA-BOOOM!

KRA-BOOOM!

LET ME SEE IF I'VE GOT THIS ***RIGHT.***

THE LEGENDARY— NAY, ***LEGENDARIOUSLY*** LEGENDARY—TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDERS GOT OUR ***PANCAKES*** HANDED TO US—

—BY A VILLAGE NAMED ***JAZZYPICKLETON?!***

I TOLD YOU TO USE ONE OF OUR ***FORMATIONS!***

WE DID!

THEN IT'S ***TIME,*** TERRY.

Snort!

WHAT...?

No...

NO! ROKKUS, PIM PIM AND I WERE DOING ***GREAT!*** BUT THEN ***OUTTA NOWHERE*** COMES THIS...THIS...

WHAT? BABY DRAGON? ICE GOLEM? P.E.K.K.A.? ***SPIT IT OUT!***

I DON'T KNOW ***WHAT*** IT WAS. BUT IT WAS ***HUGE. POWERFUL.***

SOME KINDA ***SECRET WEAPON.***

"SECRET WEAPON." OF ALL THE ***GOBLIN DOOKIE*** I'VE EVER HEARD...

ONE OF YOU MUST'VE SEEN IT! ***BACK ME UP HERE!***

WE DIDN'T SEE NO ***SECRET WEAPON.***

YOU KNOW WHAT WE ***DID*** SEE?

AN EMBARRASSMENT.

SAY THAT AGAIN TO MY FACE!

HEY!

TERRY! YOU ***DARE*** PUT YOUR HANDS ON AN ***ALL-STAR?!***

BUT ROKKUS—

CAPTAIN ROKKUS.

HEADING BACK TO YOUR ***CRYING SPOT,*** TWERPY?

HA HA HA!

See what I mean, Chief? ***Dweeb!***

I know, I know. I said I was gone *forever,* but lucky for *you,* I changed my mind! After all, what kind of a story would this be without a *narrator?*

If *I* weren't here, you'd probably have to...I don't know...read *Terry's* thoughts!

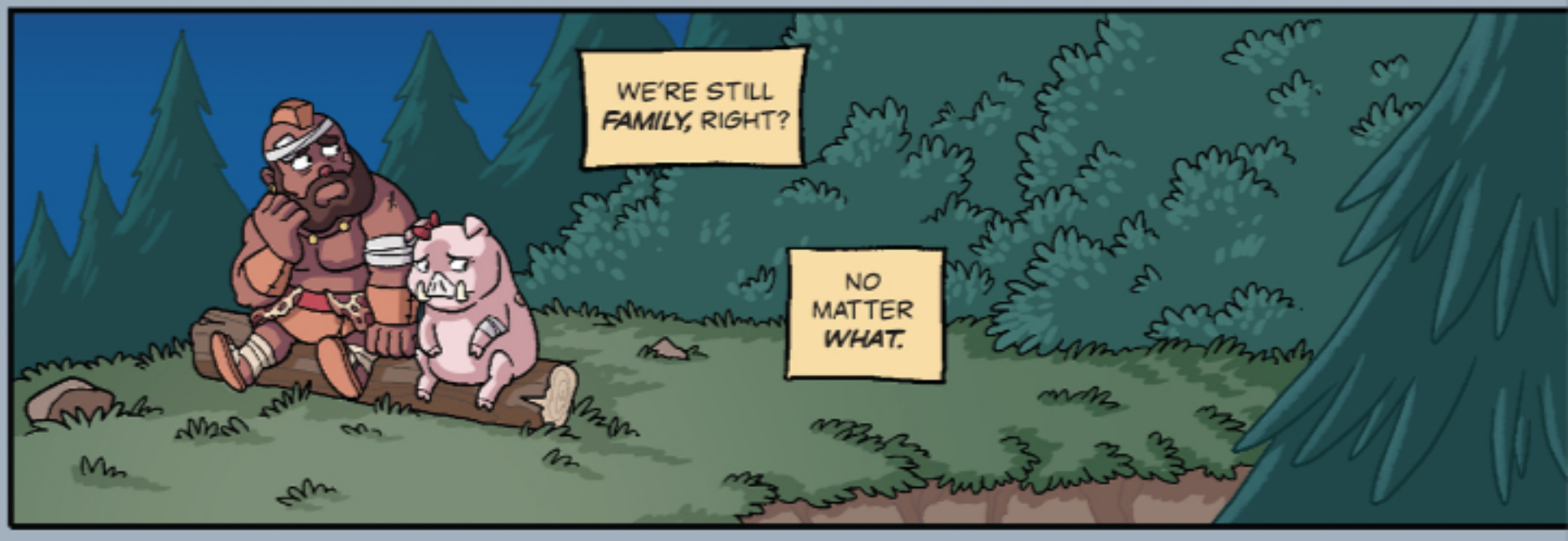
Ha ha! Can you *imagine?!*

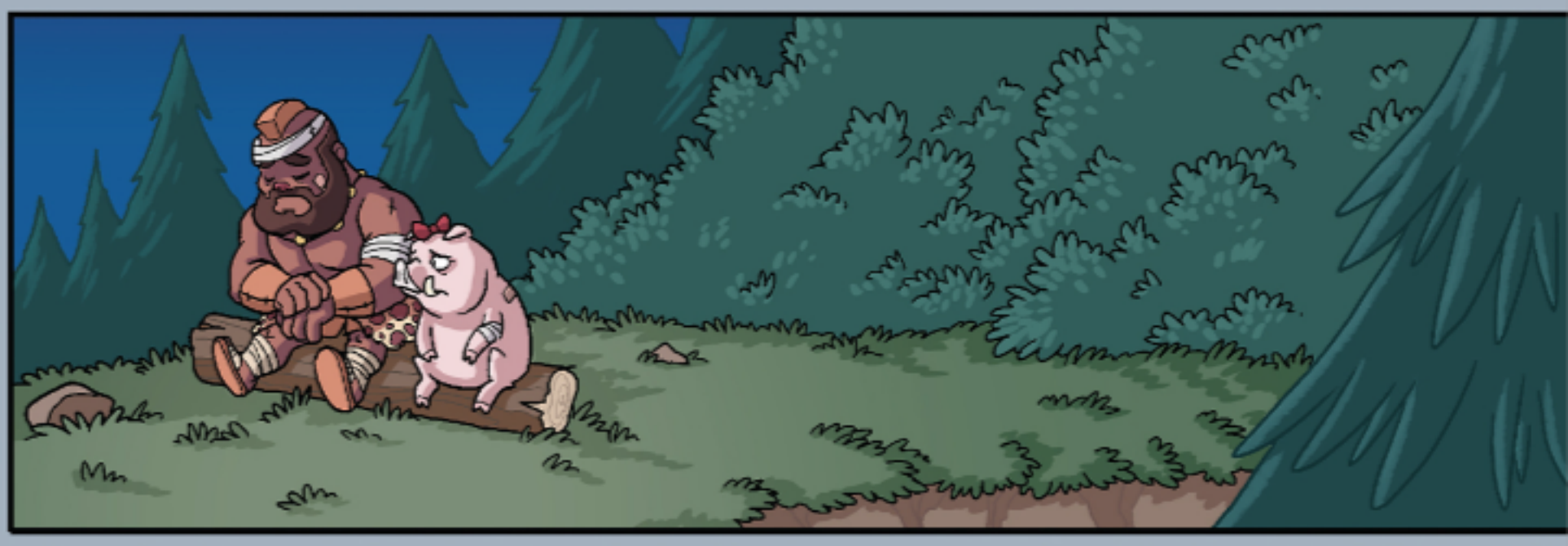
Wait, you're not *actually* thinking about reading that *dweeb's —*

PIM PIM AND I HAVE BEEN WAITING HERE FOR WHAT FEELS LIKE *HALF THE NIGHT.*

HE *STILL* HASN'T SHOWN UP.

COME ON, ROKKUS. COME TALK TO ME.
WE'LL WORK IT OUT, JUST LIKE LAST TIME.


WE'RE STILL *FAMILY,* RIGHT?
NO MATTER *WHAT.*



zzz

:Snrf!:

MM... SORRY, MUST'VE *DOZED OFF* FOR A BIT.

WHERE...?

:GASP!:

I KNOW WHERE WE ARE!

NO, PIM PIM! WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO HANG OUT WITH *NON-HOG-RIDER* TROOPS IN *TRIUMPHICA,* LET ALONE SOMEBODY WHO'S *COMPLETELY VILLAGELESS!*

Oink oink oink!

:GRUMBLE!:

I'M HUNGRY, TOO, LITTLE BUDDY! BUT DO WE HAVE TO GO TO *HER?!*

Oink oink!

HER SUCCOTASH IS ***NOT*** THE BEST!

HEY! HOW ABOUT WE FIND SOME OF THEM ***BERRIES*** BY THE RIVER AND BAKE 'EM INTO A PIE?

Oink oink oink oink!!!

OF COURSE I REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME! I SAID I WAS SORRY LIKE ***TWENTY TIMES!***

AND I TOLD YOU, IF MY ***DIGESTIVE SYSTEM*** EVER DOES THAT AGAIN, WE'LL GET A ***SADDLE!***

Oink...!

IT'S JUST...***ANYTHING'S*** BETTER THAN HAVING TO VISIT THAT ***CREEPY OLD WITCH,*** PIM PIM!

SHE MIGHT ***SEEM*** LIKE THE NICE GRANDMA TYPE, ALL SMELLING LIKE ***BAKED COOKIES...***

...BUT I SAY ***ONE WRONG WORD*** AND SHE MIGHT TURN ME INTO A—

Shudder!

OINK OINK OINK!!!

QUIT *PUTTING WORDS IN MY MOUTH! I'M* **NOT** *SAYING THAT AT ALL! THERE'S* **NOTHING** *WRONG WITH* **YOU** *BEING* **YOU!**

BUT **I** *WANNA STAY* **ME!**

AW, DON'T BE LIKE THAT! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ***NOW,*** WALK ON MY OWN ***TWO FEET?!***

Hrmph!

Oink oink!

YOU.

SQUEAL!

GRANNY POCUS

I'VE MET THIS WITCH BEFORE. NOT A FAN.

IT'S BEEN ***TOO LONG,*** PIM PIM, MY LOVELY!

Oink oink oink!

DID YOU FINALLY GET RID OF THAT ***SCRAGGLY, GOOD-FOR-NOTHING—***

Ahem.

MISSUS POCUS.

TERRY! WHAT A ***LOVELY SURPRISE!*** AND PLEASE, CALL ME ***GRANNY*** POCUS! NOW, WHO'S UP FOR A BOWL OF MY ***WORLD-FAMOUS SUCCOTASH?***

Squeal!

:Sniff sniff:

YOU BAKING ***COOKIES*** AGAIN, MISSUS POCUS?

I'VE NEVER BAKED A COOKIE IN MY LIFE! THAT'S JUST MY ***NATURAL BODY ODOR.***

ENJOY!

I'D NEVER SAY THIS OUT LOUD, BUT HER SUCCOTASH REALLY ***IS*** THE BEST.

Chit chat chit chat chit chat chit chat chit chat chit chat chit

IT'S JUST THAT EVERY TIME I VISIT, SOMETHING HAPPENS THAT MAKES ME LOSE MY APPETITE.

WHAT'S UP? I'M ***GIGAWATT.*** WHERE'RE YOU FROM?

GIGAWATT

HEY. THE NAME'S *TERRODICUS.* I'M FROM *TRIUMPHICA.*

BWA HA HA HA HA HA!

OH... HEH HEH. YOU'RE NOT JOKING. I JUST THOUGHT WITH YOUR *DIMINUTIVE SIZE* AND ALL...

DIMINUTIVE?! WHO YOU CALLING *DIMINUTIVE?!*

SO WHICH IS IT, YOU'VE NEVER SEEN YOURSELF IN THE *MIRROR* OR YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT *"DIMINUTIVE"* MEANS?

Psh. I KNOW WHAT "DIMINUTIVE" MEANS.

YOU'RE ONE OF HER *VICTIMS,* I TAKE IT? AS OPPOSED TO A *HOG* HOG, I MEAN.

WHAT, DID MY *BUTT TATTOO* GIVE ME AWAY?

YOU'RE TALKING TO ME WITH *HUMAN WORDS.*

OH, RIGHT, RIGHT.

YEAH, I *AM* ONE OF HER... THE TERM *"VICTIM"* HITS KIND OF WRONG, YOU KNOW? SHE PREFERS *"LOVELIES."*

AND TRUTHFULLY, IT'S NOT SO BAD. I USED TO BE AN *ELECTRO GIANT* AND I JUST FELT LIKE I HAD TO BE *ON* ALL THE TIME! WHO HAS THAT KIND OF *ENERGY?*

NOW, I *EAT,* I *SLEEP,* I *POOP,* THEN I *ROLL AROUND* IN MY OWN POOP. I WOULDN'T SAY IT'S AN *EASY* LIFE, BUT IT'S *FOCUSED.* I JUST FEEL SO MUCH MORE *CENTERED.*

PLUS, YOU'VE HAD HER *SUCCOTASH!*

IT'S NOT BAD.

NOT BAD?! IT'S TO *DIE* FOR!

OR AT LEAST GET-TURNED-INTO-A-HOG FOR.

PSHEW! PSHEW! PSHEW!

WHAT'S *THAT?!* WE BEING *ATTACKED?!*

RELAX. JUST FOREST GANG KIDS SETTING OFF ***FIRECRACKERS.*** SHE'LL DEAL WITH IT.

EXCUSE ME, MY LOVELY.

IT'S THE *MOTHER WITCH!* **RUN!**

I TOLD YOU BRATS—

PSHEW! PSHEW! PSHEW!

POOF!

-STAY OFF MY **LAWN!**

DELIGHTFUL NEWS, EVERYBODY! MORE ***LOVELIES*** HAVE DECIDED TO JOIN US!

SUCCOTASH?

I GUESS.

:Sniff: YOU BAKING COOKIES?

SEE? EVERYTHING'S TAKEN CARE OF. NOT A BAD WAY OF LIFE, HMM?

IT'S NOT THE ***TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER WAY!***

YOU KNOW WHAT'LL MAKE YOU FORGET ALL ABOUT THAT "TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER WAY" ***NONSENSE?*** A GOOD ROLL IN YOUR OWN ***FECAL MATTER.***

HEY, DON'T KNOCK IT 'TIL YOU TRY IT.

TERRY, PIM PIM TOLD ME ALL ABOUT THE INCIDENT WITH THE ***SECRET WEAPON*** OF JAZZYPICKLETON.

WAIT, YOU ***BELIEVE*** US ABOUT THE SECRET WEAPON?!

OF COURSE. PIM PIM WOULDN'T ***LIE*** TO ME.

NOBODY ***EVER*** LIES TO ME.

=Shudder!=

SOME ***ADVICE?*** THE ***SECRET*** TO BEATING A ***SECRET*** WEAPON IS UNCOVERING THE ***SECRET*** WEAPON'S ***SECRET*** AND THEN ***SECRETLY*** USING THE ***SECRET*** TO TURN THE ***SECRET*** WEAPON AGAINST ITSELF!

YOU USED ***"SECRET"*** TOO MANY TIMES IN ONE SENTENCE. I DON'T FOLLOW.

THERE'S ***ALWAYS*** A WAY TO TURN A THING AGAINST ITSELF. OR EVEN A ***PERSON*** AGAINST THEMSELVES. ***WATCH.***

I'M GOING TO DIG AROUND INSIDE YOUR ***SOUL***...UNTIL I FIND THAT ***DEEP, DARK PART*** OF YOU... A ***SECRET*** THAT YOU'D NEVER TELL ANYONE, NOT EVEN YOUR OWN ***HOG***...

WAIT... HA HA! ***STOP!*** THAT ***TICKLES!***

=Gasp!=

OH, TERRY...!

WHAT?! I SPILLED ***LEMONADE*** ON THE BED, ***I SWEAR!***

NO, NOT ***THAT.*** THE SECRET I FOUND ISN'T ***A MEMORY.*** IT'S A ***THOUGHT*** YOU'VE NEVER SAID ***OUT LOUD.***

WHAT THOUGHT?

. . .

PERHAPS IT'S BEST LEFT ***UNSAID.***

ANYWAY, ONCE YOU GET A HOLD OF A SECRET—

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GIVE IT A LITTLE *TWIST*—

—AND YOU CAN TURN A PERSON AGAINST *THEMSELVES!*

POOF!

AAAH!

NOW I CAN *CONTROL* YOUR EVERY MOVE IF I WANT!

DANCE, MY LOVELY, DANCE!

STOP IT!

POOF!

DON'T *EVER* DO THAT AGAIN! *EVER!*

:HUFF! HUFF!:

YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M GETTING AT, THOUGH. SECRETS GIVE YOU *CONTROL.*

SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN' IS, PIM PIM AND I GOTTA SNEAK INTO JAZZYPICKLETON, UNCOVER THE *SECRET* OF THEIR *SECRET* WEAPON, THEN TELL THE TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDERS HOW TO *SECRETLY* USE THE *SECRET* TO TURN THE *SECRET* WEAPON AGAINST ITSELF?

YOU USED *"SECRET"* AN AWFUL LOT OF TIMES IN ONE SENTENCE—

BUT *EXACTLY!* THEN WHEN YOUR FELLOW RIDERS USE THE SECRET *YOU* UNCOVERED TO COMPLETELY DEVASTATE JAZZYPICKLETON, YOU'LL HAVE THE *RESPECT* YOU'RE AFTER!

THANK YOU, MISSUS...I MEAN, GRANNY POCUS! *THANK YOU!*

DON'T MENTION IT. BUT *DO* KEEP IN MIND, TERRY, MY LOVELY...

...SOME KINDS OF RESPECT AREN'T WORTH EARNING.

UP WE GO, MY LOVELIES!

GRANNY POCUS...?

ZZYPICKLETON

:SNIFF: I SWEAR I SMELL COOKIES!

CAREFUL. I MIGHT STILL BE SLIPPERY FROM MY LAST *ROLL AROUND.*

AGAIN, *THANK YOU.*

Oink oink!

MY PLEASURE!

TRULY. I TAKE PLEASURE IN BENDING *LOVELIES* TO MY WILL.

LOOK AT THIS PLACE! THEIR ELIXIR COLLECTORS ARE PRACTICALLY *ANTIQUES!*

HOW DID *THIS* VILLAGE DEFEAT *US?*

Oink oink?

THUD!

FOOD?! HOW CAN YOU THINK ABOUT ***FOOD*** AT A TIME LIKE THIS?! WE'RE ON A MISSION, PIM PIM, LIKE...LIKE ***SPIES!***

Oink oink oink!

SPIES DON'T THINK ABOUT ***FOOD!***

THOK!

SQUEAL!

GRF!

SQUEAL... SQUEAL...!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, PIM PIM!

I'M *ALIVE!*

SAVED BY THE *HITHERTO UNREVEALED RUGGEDNESS* OF MY *FOREHEAD!* HA HA!

!

MORE LIKE, YOU WERE SAVED BY ME USING A *SUCTION CUP ARROW,* YOU NUMB NUT!

IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

WHERE'S THAT VOICE COMING FROM?! *WH-WHO ARE YOU?!*

YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE!

IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

THOK!

THOK!

THOK!

YEOW!

Oink oink!

L-LISTEN, *SCARY VOICE FROM THE SHADOWS...*

:Sniff:

UH... SCARY VOICE FROM THE SHADOWS? YOU OKAY?

NO ONE'S EVER CALLED ME *SCARY* BEFORE...

THAT'S THE *SWEETEST THING* ANYONE'S EVER SAID TO ME.

STOP RIGHT THERE!

IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

NOW *THESE* ARCHERS I CAN *SEE*. AND IF I CAN SEE 'EM, PIM PIM AND I CAN *BEAT* 'EM.

HEY, WHAT TIME IS IT, PIM PIM?

Oink!

THAT'S RIGHT! *TIME TO* **DROP THE HAMMER!**

HOG RIDERS!

OIIINK!

LET'S GO GET IT!

THOK!

POW!

MY BOW!

WHOA!

HE'S TOUGH!

YEAH, I'M *TOUGH!*

POW!

TOUGH ENOUGH TO TAKE DOWN ALL OF US, THOUGH?

HA! YOU'RE ABOUT AS WEAK AS YOUR *ELIXIR STORAGE,* ARCHER!

!

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, TOUGH GUY. OUR ELIXIR STORAGE SURE COULD USE A *REBUILD!*

KRACK!

FUDGE BISCUITS!

SPLOOSH!

LET'S TRY THIS ONE MORE TIME.

IDENTIFY YOURSELF.

I GET THAT YOU WERE TRYING TO HELP, ARCHERS, BUT I HAD HIM HANDLED!

PLEASE. HOW WERE YOU HANDLING IT?

THAT FOURTH ARCHER MUST BE THE ***SCARY VOICE FROM THE SHADOWS!***

BY HIDING UNTIL THE ***DANGER*** WAS OVER?

Hmph! ***COWARD.*** JUST LIKE ***ALWAYS.***

I WASN'T ***HIDING,*** YOU NUMB NUTS! I WAS ***SNEAKING!*** IT'S A ***LOST TRADITION*** OF THE ANCIENT ARCHERS!

WHATEVER.

I HAD HIM IN MY CROSSHAIRS ***WAY*** BEFORE YOU THREE SHOWED UP! HE EVEN CALLED ME ***SCARY!***

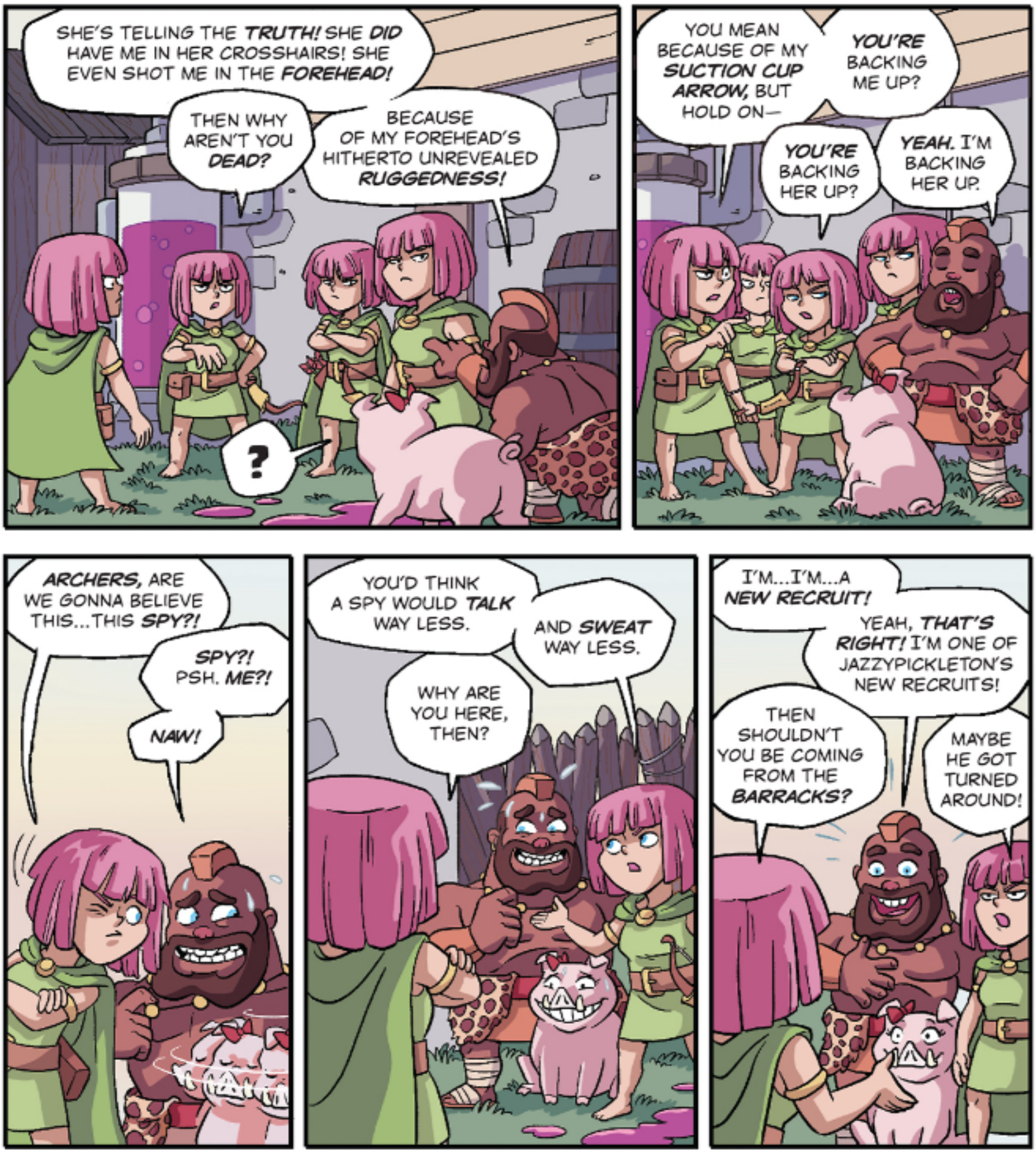
YOU HEAR THAT? THE COWARD'S ***SCARY*** NOW.

IS ***LYING*** ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE LOST TRADITIONS?

FACE IT, COWARD—

—YOU'RE AN ***EMBARRASSMENT.***

YOU'RE AN ***EMBARRASSMENT.***


SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH! SHE DID HAVE ME IN HER CROSSHAIRS! SHE EVEN SHOT ME IN THE FOREHEAD!
THEN WHY AREN'T YOU DEAD?
BECAUSE OF MY FOREHEAD'S HITHERTO UNREVEALED RUGGEDNESS!
?
YOU MEAN BECAUSE OF MY SUCTION CUP ARROW, BUT HOLD ON—
YOU'RE BACKING ME UP?
YOU'RE BACKING HER UP?
YEAH. I'M BACKING HER UP.
ARCHERS, ARE WE GONNA BELIEVE THIS...THIS SPY?!
SPY?! PSH. ME?!
NAW!
YOU'D THINK A SPY WOULD TALK WAY LESS.
AND SWEAT WAY LESS.
WHY ARE YOU HERE, THEN?
I'M...I'M...A NEW RECRUIT!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! I'M ONE OF JAZZYPICKLETON'S NEW RECRUITS!
THEN SHOULDN'T YOU BE COMING FROM THE BARRACKS?
MAYBE HE GOT TURNED AROUND!
I TOLD YOU ALL, I'VE GOT HIM HANDLED!
Hmph.
WHATEVER.
END OF OUR SHIFT, ANYWAY.

I'VE GOT A ***PERSONAL RULE*** AGAINST SAYING THANK YOU. BUT ***THANK YOU.***

YEAH, DON'T MENTION IT. THOSE ARCHERS WERE ***JERKWADS.***

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

SUN'S COMING UP. YOU HAD ***BREAKFAST*** YET?

NOPE, I'D LOVE SOME! MY HOG, TOO!

Oink oink!

SO...YOU REALLY ARE A ***NEW RECRUIT***, RIGHT?

Uh...

SHE SEEMS LIKE AN ***ALL RIGHT*** PERSON.

I FEEL KINDA BAD THAT TRIUMPHICA IS GOING TO ***COMPLETELY DEVASTATE*** HER VILLAGE, STEAL ALL THEIR ***GOLD*** AND ***ELIXIR,*** AND LEAVE THEIR BUILDER A ***BROKEN MAN.***

BUT THAT'S ***THE TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER WAY.***

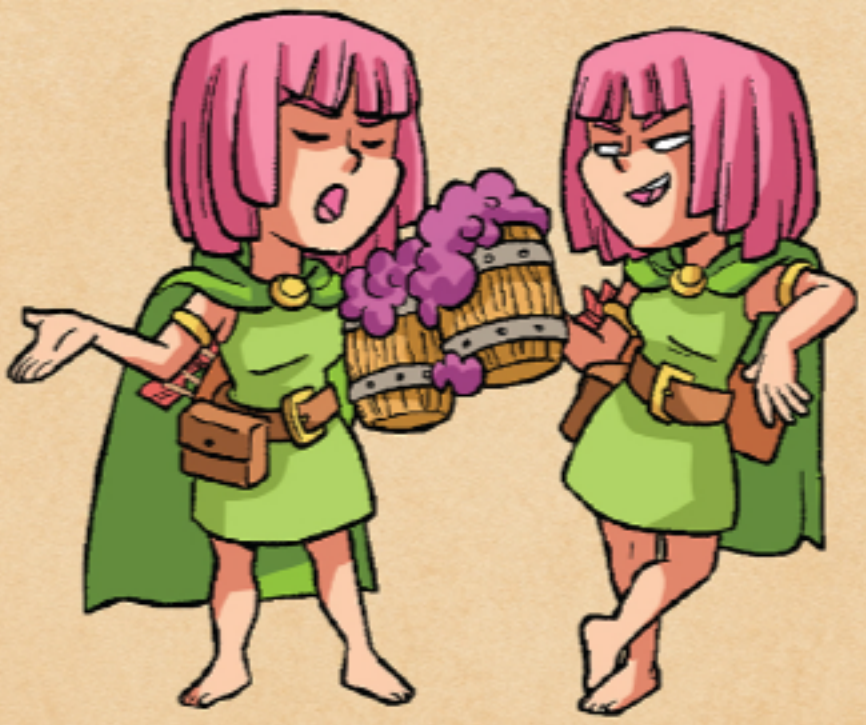
YUP. THAT'S ME.

NEW RECRUIT.

Heh heh.

Oink!

Chapter 2



WELCOME TO SKULGAR'S, THE BEST TAVERN IN TOWN!

THE ONLY TAVERN IN TOWN, BUT STILL.

WAIT, WE'RE GONNA EAT INSIDE A BUILDING? DOESN'T EVERYTHING GET ALL SMOKY WITH THE CAMPFIRE?

THAT AN ATTEMPT AT A JOKE, NEWBIE?

DO BETTER OR YOU WON'T MAKE FRIENDS.

SKULGAR'S TAVERN

WHERE ARE YOUR HOG'S REINS?

REINS?

TO TIE HER TO THE ***HITCHING POST.*** HOW ELSE ARE YOU GONNA KEEP THE ***GOBLINS*** FROM WALKING OFF WITH HER?

GASP!

I AM ***NOT*** TYING PIM PIM TO SOME ***POST!***

NO HOGS!

HER NAME IS ***PIM PIM,*** HUH? YOU PUT A ***BOW*** ON HER HEAD. ***CUTE.***

SHE PICKED THAT OUT HERSELF, ACTUALLY.

COMPLETELY ***USELESS,*** BUT CUTE.

HEY, YOU WANNA RISK GEING PIM PIM ***STOLEN,*** THAT'S ON ***YOU,*** BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE HER INTO SKULGAR'S.

THEY GOT A SIGN.

NO HOGS!

GASP!

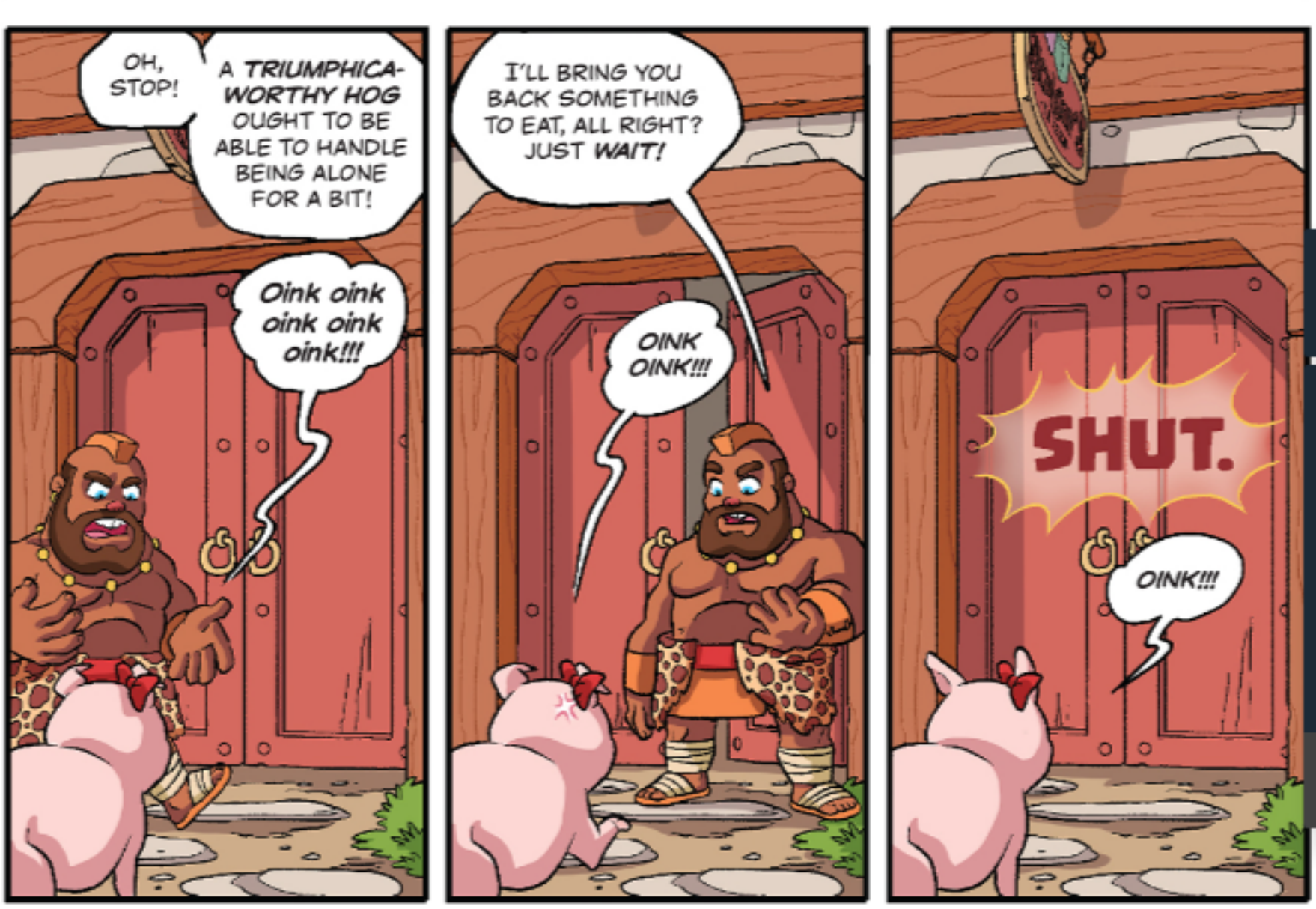
YOU DO A LOT OF ***GASPING,*** NEWBIE. MAYBE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE ***HEALER*** AND GET THAT CHECKED OUT.

GIVE ME AND PIM PIM A MOMENT?

I'LL GRAB A TABLE, BUT DON'T TAKE ***TOO LONG.*** I GOT A THING IN ***HALF AN HOUR.***

NO HOG

YOU SEE THE SIGN, LITTLE BUDDY! IT'S IN ALL CAPS! AND A HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE, SANS SERIF FONT, NO LESS! THAT MEANS THEY REALLY MEAN IT!
Oink oink oink!


OH, STOP!
A TRIUMPHICA-WORTHY HOG OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE BEING ALONE FOR A BIT!
Oink oink oink oink oink!!!
I'LL BRING YOU BACK SOMETHING TO EAT, ALL RIGHT? JUST WAIT!
OINK OINK!!!
SHUT.
OINK!!!

!
Hee hee hee!
NO HOGS!

THE TAVERN IS THE ***NOISIEST, STRANGEST-SMELLING*** PLACE I'VE EVER BEEN.

AND I'VE SMELLED SOME ***STRANGE SMELLS,*** BELIEVE ME.

ROKKUS WENT THROUGH A RIDING BOOTS PHASE, AND ***MAN.***

LET'S JUST SAY THERE'S A REASON HOG RIDERS WEAR ***SANDALS.***

EVERY KIND OF TROOP IS HERE, ALL MINGLING WITH EACH OTHER LIKE IT'S ***NORMAL.***

BARBARIANS.

VALKYRIES.

WIZARDS.

MUSKETEERS.

GOBLINS.
(CREEPY LITTLE GUYS.)

See?! They *are* creepy! Even the *dweeb*—

You know what? *Never mind.*

Pretend I'm not even *here.*

MINIONS.

WHO KNOWS WHAT *THAT THING* IS.

AND *ARCHERS.*

ARCHERS, ARCHERS *EVERYWHERE.*

AND THEY ALL LOOK THE *SAME!*

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL WHICH IS *THE ONE I MET?!*

I NEVER CAUGHT HER *NAME.*

HI, THERE!

ARE YOU... THE *SCARY VOICE FROM THE SHADOWS?*

HA HA. MY NAME'S *STACY!*

AFTER STACY INTRODUCES HERSELF, I START TO NOTICE THINGS ABOUT HER. LIKE, HER HAIR IS SHORTER THAN THE OTHER ARCHERS'.

LISTEN, I'M—

AND SHE WEARS A *HAIR CLIP.*

TRUE, TRUE, BUT I'M LOOKING FOR—

AND SHE'S GOT THAT *MOLE* ON HER CHEEK.

NOT TO BE RUDE, BUT I GOTTA—

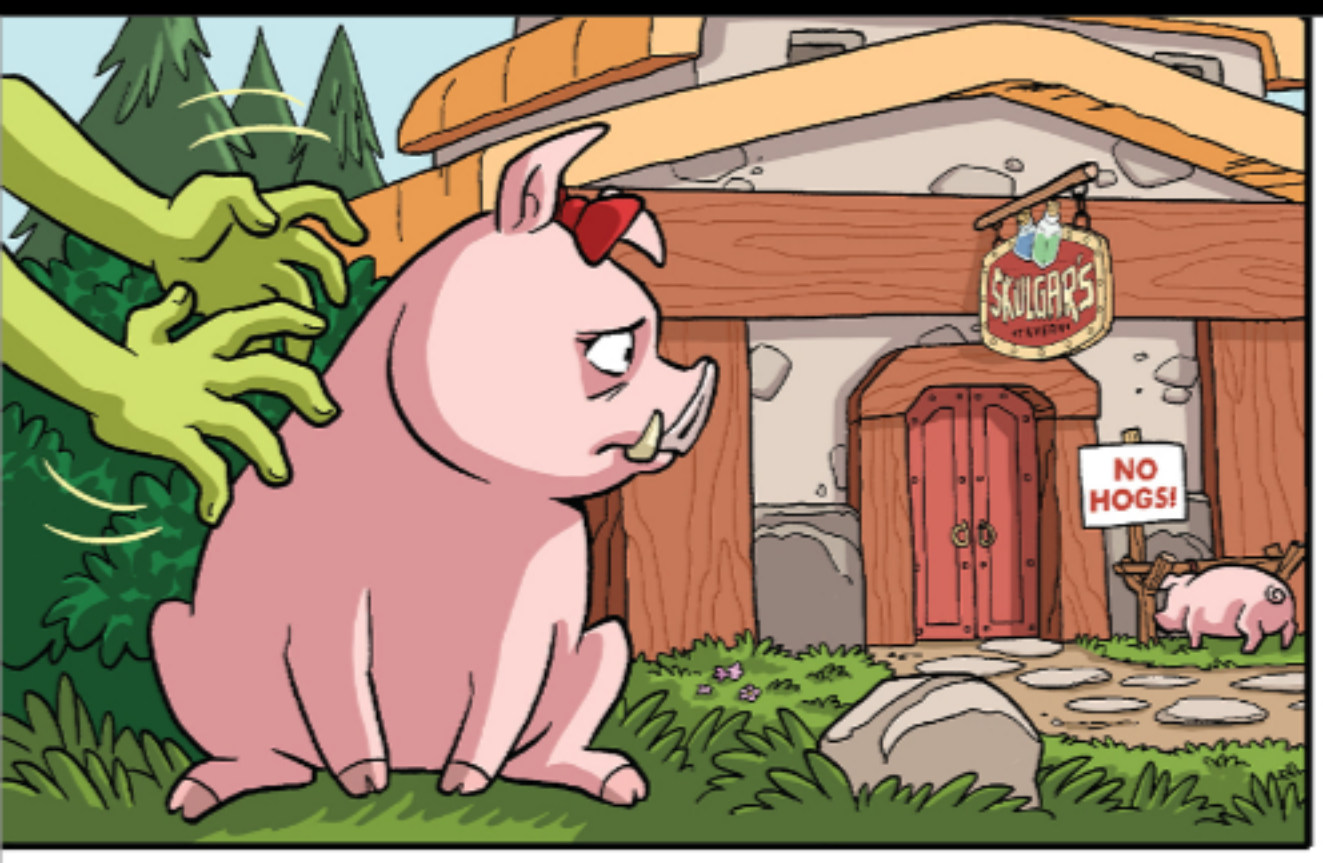
I CAN *DEFINITELY* PICK STACY OUT OF A CROWD NOW.

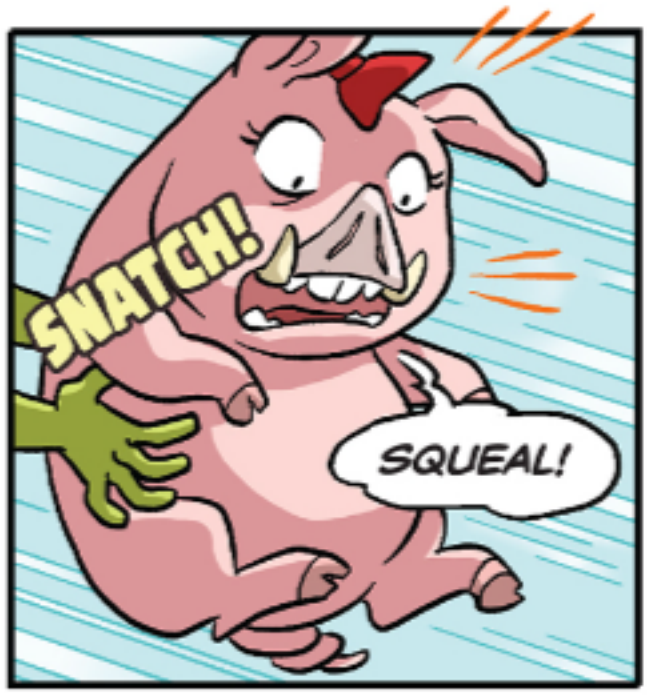
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

AND I CAN *DEFINITELY* SAY THAT SHE'S *NOT* THE ARCHER I MET EARLIER.

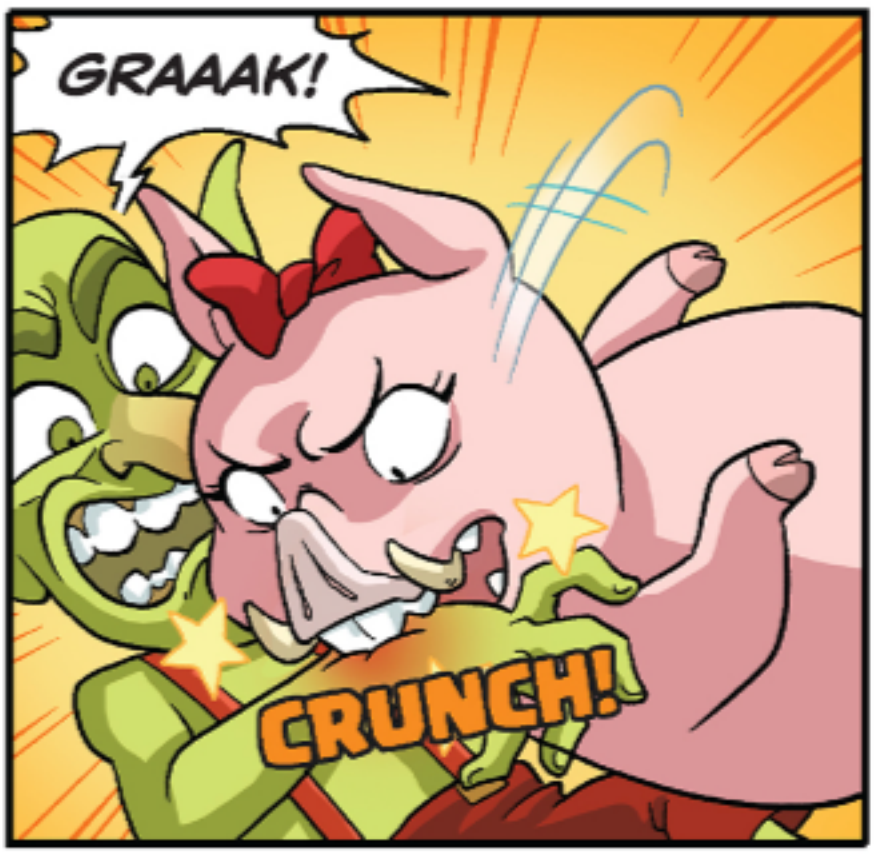
:SIGH:

PLEASE, SOMEBODY DROP SOMETHING HEAVY ON ME.

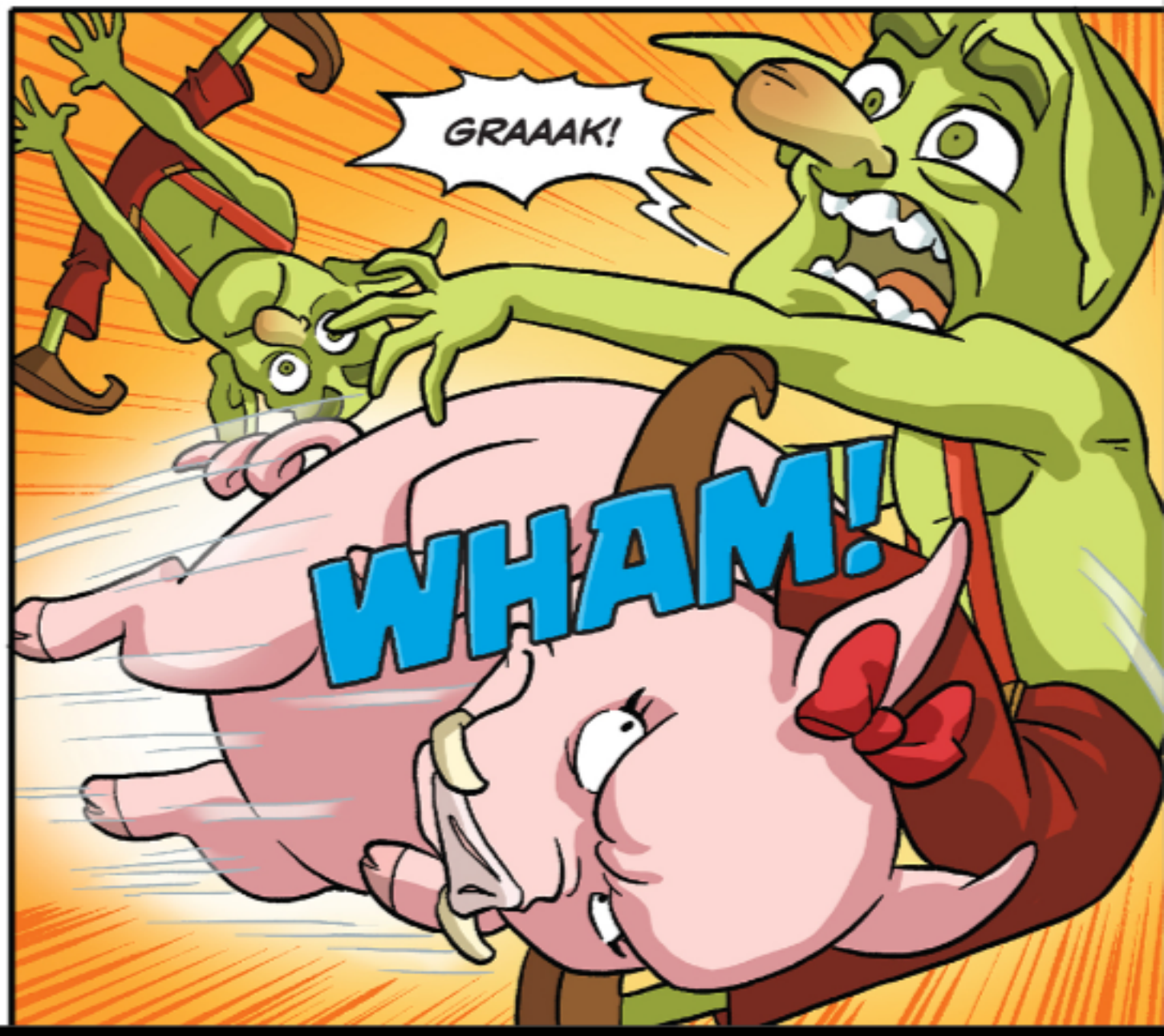

SKULGAR'S
NO HOGS!


SNATCH!
SQUEAL!

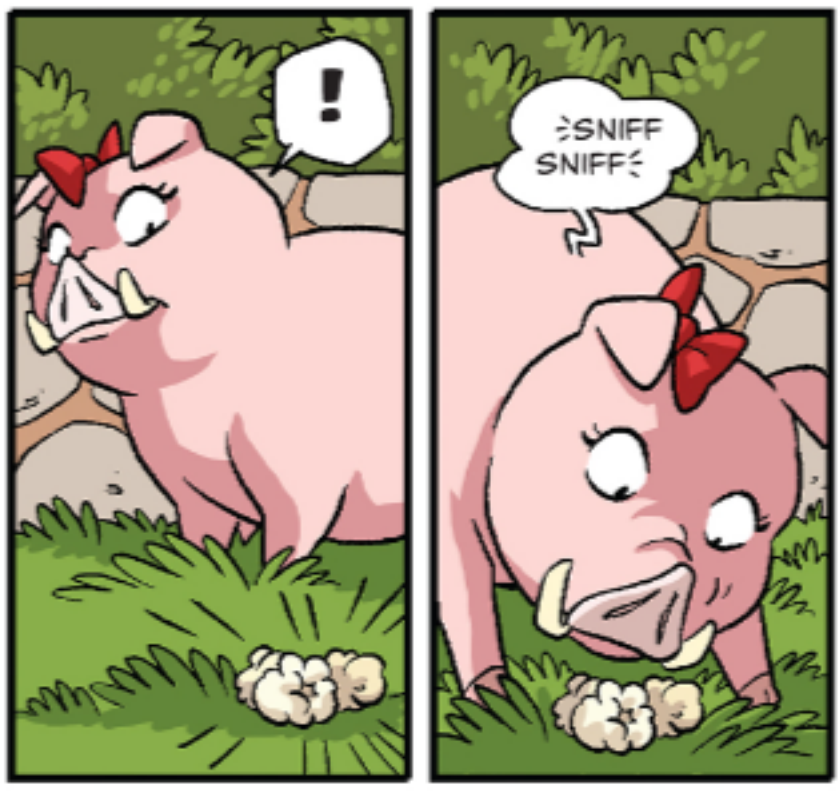
HEE HEE!
SQUEAL!
SQUEAL!
SQUEAL!
HEE HEE!

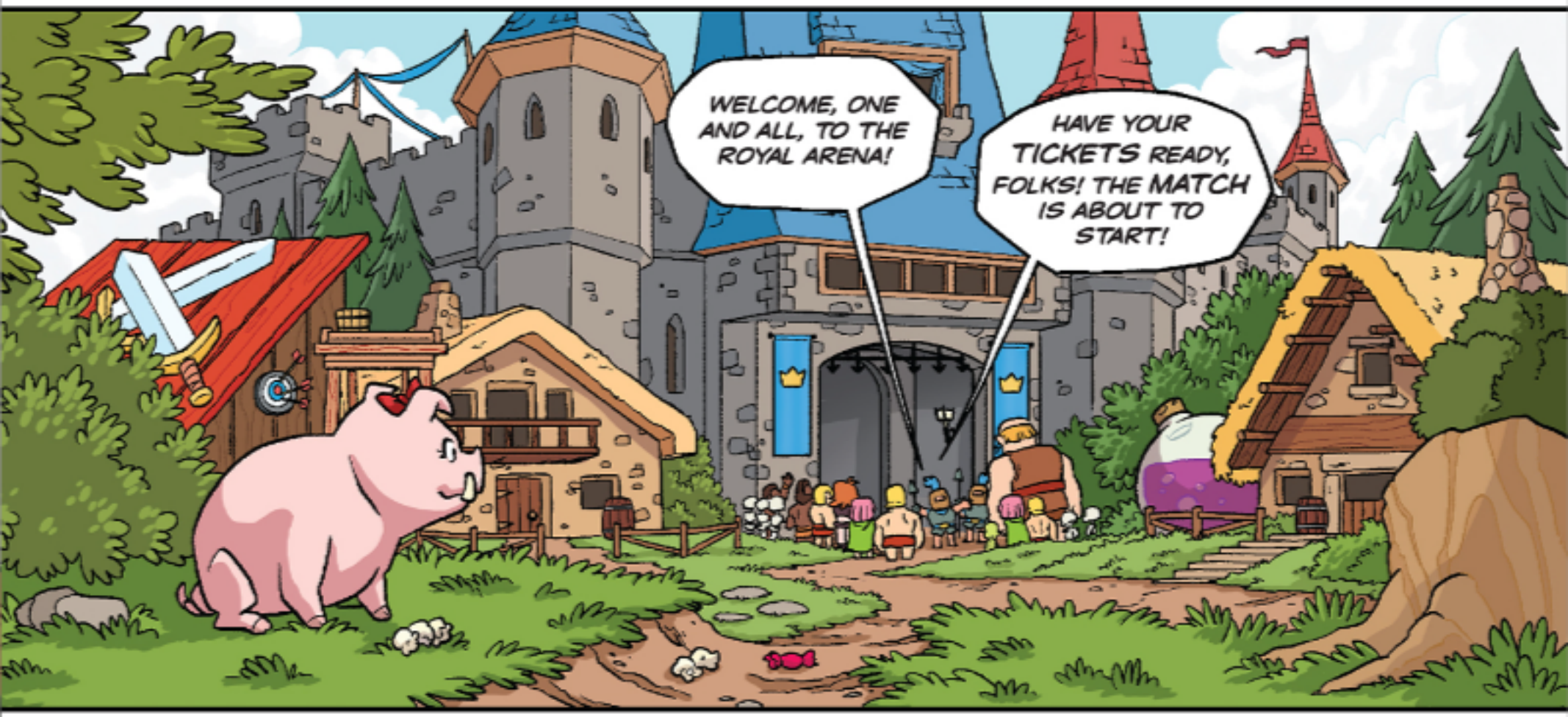

GRAAAK!
CRUNCH!

GRRR!


GRAAAK!
WHAM!

SCRAM!


!
SNIFF SNIFF


WELCOME, ONE AND ALL, TO THE ROYAL ARENA!
HAVE YOUR TICKETS READY, FOLKS! THE MATCH IS ABOUT TO START!

I GOTTA FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS. A DISTRACTION, MAYBE.

WHAT IS THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN CARTILAGE AND BONE, ANYWAY? WAYS WONDERED, LIKE, HARD DOES CARTILAGE GET BEFORE IT'S BONE? HG TO IT AS BONE? THAT'S THE QUESTION ALTOGETHER. TEGORICALLY DIFFERENT? OR ARE THEY ON A SCALE OF SOME SORT?

MINION ATTACK!

WHERE?!

?

ZHHHHHHHP!

SIR!

WHY, PRAY TELL, DID YOU CHOOSE ***MINIONS*** AS YOUR IMAGINARY ASSAILANTS? DO YOU FIND SOME SORT OF ***PERVERSE PLEASURE*** IN PERPETUATING ***TIRED OLD STEREOTYPES*** ABOUT MY KIND?

OH! UH... I DIDN'T MEAN ANY ***OFFENSE!***

BUT OFFENSE WAS ***TAKEN,*** GOOD SIR! ***OFFENSE WAS SURELY TAKEN!***

HOG RIDERS!

FINALLY, SOME ***FRIENDLY FACES!***

YOU A ***NEW RECRUIT?***

YEP! THAT'S ***ME!***

NEW RECRUIT!

PULL UP A CHAIR.

WAIT, WAIT—

YOU ALL ARE HANGING OUT WITH *CHICKENS?!*

WHILE YOUR *HOGS* ARE TIED UP OUTSIDE?!

BAWK!

CHILL, NEWBIE.

IT'S *NO HOGS ALLOWED* IN HERE.

WE NEEDED SOME COMPANY. THE CHICKENS FELT THE SAME.

BAWK!

BUT THE BOND BETWEEN HOG AND RIDER IS *SACRED!*

WHAT'S NEXT, RIDING A BUNCHA *FOWLS* INTO BATTLE?!

WHAT THE *BAWK* DID YOU JUST SAY?!

BAWK!

YOU JUST CALL OUR FRIENDS *FOUL?!* YOU BETTER *BAWKIN'* APOLOGIZE!

FOWL! F-O-W-L!

I'M *NOT* APOLOGIZING JUST 'CAUSE YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN *HOMOPHONES!*

AND STOP SAYING BAWK LIKE THAT!

YOU'RE **HOG RIDERS!**

SMASH!

WHAT THE BAWK?!

BAWK! BAWK!

GET 'IM OUTTA MY BAR.

SKULGAR'S TAVERN

WHUMP!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SON?

TERRODICUS!

I'M SKULGAR!

AS SOON AS HE TELLS ME HIS NAME, I NOTICE HOW *DIFFERENT* HE LOOKS FROM THE OTHER SKELETONS.

LIKE, HE'S WEARING A *SNAZZY VEST.*

AND HE'S GOT AN *X* FOR AN EYE.

AND HE'S GOT *HAIR.*

KINDA LIKE WHAT HAPPENED WITH *STACY THE ARCHER.*

LISTEN HERE, *TERRODICUS!*

THAT'S *MY NAME* UP THERE! AND IN A *HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE, WHIMSICAL FONT, NO LESS!*

THAT MEANS I GOT THE *AUTHORITY* TO BAN YOU FROM THIS ESTABLISHMENT FOR *LIFE!*

SKULGAR'S TAVERN

I WASN'T TRYING TO CAUSE *TROUBLE!*

IT'S JUST THAT THE *BOND* BETWEEN HOG AND RIDER—

SPEAKING OF WHICH...

NO HOGS!

PIM PIM...?

PIM PIM!
WHERE'D YOU GO, LITTLE BUDDY?!
THAT'S RIGHT! GET OUTTA HERE!
AND DON'T EVER COME BACK!
NO HOGS!
:GASP!:
GOBLIN TRACKS!
FUDGE BISCUITS!
FUDGE BISCUITS!
FUDGE BISCUITS!
HOG PRINTS!
PIM PIM...

"...WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF *INTO?*"

WOW! THIS IS THE KIND OF ***MATCH*** EVERY ***ROYALE*** FAN DREAMS OF!

THE ***AWESOME SAUCERS*** FROM THE VILLAGE OF ***RIVALICIOUS*** ARE GIVING ***JAZZYPICKLETON'S CUCUMBERS*** A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY!

REMEMBER, ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF ***ROYALE,*** A TEAM CAN WIN EITHER BY DESTROYING THEIR OPPONENT'S ***KING TOWER*** OR BY HAVING THE ***MOST TOWERS*** STANDING WHEN THE MATCH ***ENDS!***

BOTH THE SAUCERS AND THE CUCUMBERS HAVE ALREADY ***LOST*** A TOWER!

FWOOOSH!

Look at that little hoglet, ***staring*** like she's never seen a ***Baby Dragon*** before!

Though I guess it ***is*** different now that she's been up in the ***sky*** herself...

Actually, ***forget*** I said anything! You don't ***deserve*** my opinions!

PIM PIM!

PIM PIM!

WHY WOULD YOU ***RUN OFF*** LIKE THAT?!

Oink oink oink!!!

I DON'T CARE ***HOW MAD*** YOU ARE! YOU CAN'T JUST ***RUN OFF*** TO...

WHERE ***ARE*** WE, ANYWAY?

Oink oink oink!

WHAT'S A ***ROYAL ARENA?!***

Oink oink oink oink!

YEAH, I CAN SEE THEY'RE ***BATTLING,*** BUT OVER ***WHAT?*** A COUPLE OF ***TOWERS*** INSTEAD OF A WHOLE ***VILLAGE?***

THERE'S NO ***ELIXIR STORAGE!*** WHAT'RE THEY GONNA ***DRINK*** WHEN THEY WIN?!

NO ***BUILDER,*** EITHER! WHO'S GONNA DO THE ***LAMENTING?!***

PIM PIM, NONE OF THIS IS THE ***TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER WAY!***

LET'S GO!

Oink oink oink!

OVER THERE!

HALT WHERE YOU ARE!

Oink?!

THEY WOULDN'T LET ME THROUGH THE ***DOOR*** BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE A ***TICKET,*** SO I KINDA SORTA MADE ***MY OWN.***

DOOR, I MEAN. NOT TICKET.

Oink oink!!!
OH, THIS IS *MY* FAULT NOW?! *I'M* NOT THE ONE WHO RAN AWAY!
OINK OINK!!!
SO YOU WANTED ME TO JUST *IGNORE* THE SIGN?!
EXCUSE ME. REMEMBER US?
POINTING *SPEARS* AT YOUR *HEADS* AND EVERYTHING?
IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND *HALTING* YOUR BICKERING FOR A BIT—
—WE'D BE *MUCH OBLIGED.*
IT WAS IN *ALL CAPS!* AND A *HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE, SANS SERIF FONT,* NO LESS!
A TRIUMPHICA-WORTHY HOG SHOULDN'T BE ACTING LIKE THIS!
OINK OINK OINK!!!
OINK!!!
YEOWWW!
WHOMP!
:Gasp!:

OOF!

HUH?!

KRSCH!

KRSCH!

KRSCH!

OIIINK!

ZIIIP!

PIM PIM! YOU SAVED ME!

Oink oink oink oink!

NO, LITTLE BUDDY! *I'M* SORRY!

Oink oink!

NEVER SHOULD'VE LET A ***LOUSY SIGN*** GET BETWEEN US! NO MATTER ***HOW ATTRACTIVE*** THE FONT!

Oink! Oink!

THAT *BIG FROSTY CREEP* IS COMING AFTER US! HOW ABOUT WE TAKE OUT ANY *LINGERING NEGATIVE EMOTIONS* WE MIGHT FEEL TOWARD EACH OTHER ON *HIM?*

OINK!

KRSCH!

KRSCH!

KRSCH!

POW!

HOG RIDER!

HA HA!

THIS IS *EXACTLY* WHY THE BLUE KING NEVER PICKS *HOG RIDERS* FOR HIS TEAM!

Squeal!

THUD!

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TARGET *BUILDINGS,* BUT INSTEAD YOU PULL *THIS* GOBLIN DOOKIE!

WE KNOCKED HIM OUT, DIDN'T WE?!

WHEN YOU KNOCK OUT AN *ICE GOLEM,* HIS BODY TURNS INTO A *FROST NOVA CURSE!*

FUDGE BISCUITS.

HOW DO YOU NOT KNOW THIS, YOU *NUMB NUT*?!

FROSST!

"NUMB NUT"? YOU...YOU'RE THE *SCARY VOICE FROM THE SHADOWS!*

AND YOU'RE THAT *HOG RIDER* FROM THIS MORNING!

WHERE'D YOU GO?!

I TOLD YOU I HAD A THING. *THIS* IS THE THING! WHERE'D *YOU* GO?

I GOT STUCK IN A CONVERSATION.

AH. SHOULD'VE WARNED YOU ABOUT *STACY.*

SO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

TERRODICUS.

THAT'S A *STUPID* NUMBER OF SYLLABLES, TERRODICUS. I'M *JANE.*

THE *FROST NOVA CURSE* MAKES YOU *SLOW,* BUT YOU CAN STILL *FIGHT!*

WATCH *MY BACK* AND I'LL WATCH *YOURS!*

HO HO!

THE ***FROST NOVA CURSE*** FEELS LIKE ***FROSTBITE*** OVER MY ***WHOLE BODY.*** EVEN SO, JANE AND PIM PIM AND I ARE ABLE TO HOLD ***OUR OWN.***

AS WE FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE, I ***NOTICE*** THINGS ABOUT JANE.

LIKE, SHE WEARS A ***PONYTAIL.***

SLASH!

KLANG!

ACH!

AND SHE'S GOT THIS ***SCAR*** THAT RUNS ACROSS THE BRIDGE OF HER NOSE.

POW!

UFF!

AND HER CAPE IS SHAPED ALL ***ZIG-ZAGGY.***

FUNNY HOW ONCE YOU LEARN A PERSON'S ***NAME*** AND GET TO KNOW THEM, THEY ***STAND OUT*** TO YOU.

JANE

HEY, THE ***FROST NOVA CURSE*** IS FINALLY LIFTING! WE ***SURVIVED!***

HA HA! I CAN FEEL MY FINGERS AGAIN!

THE *GOLEM* AND THE *WIZARD* FROM JAZZYPICKLETON VICIOUSLY ATTACK RIVALICIOUS'S *SECOND PRINCESS TOWER!*

YIKES!

THEY BRING IT CRASHING DOWN! NOW *A SINGLE TOWER* STANDS BETWEEN THE *JAZZYPICKLETON CUCUMBERS* AND *VICTORY!*

YEEEAAAH!

YOU HEAR THAT? ONE LAST TOWER!

FOLLOW ME, TERRODICUS!

SONNY SMASH RED PRINCESS TOWER!

FWWOOOM!

YOU DON'T GOTTA ANNOUNCE WHAT YOU'RE DOING, SONNY! *JUST DO IT!*

FIREBALL!

A BOWLER'S BOULDER!

LEAP!

YOU GOTTA TIME YOUR JUMPS PERFECTLY AND—

HOG RIDERS!

SMASH!

— OR YOU COULD DO *THAT.*

THERE'S THE BOWLER! I GOT HIM!

HUH?!

THOK!

MY TURN!

POW!

NOT BAD, TERRODICUS!

WHAT IS *THAT?*

HEE HEE!

GOBLINS?!

Squeal!

ACK! ACK! ACK!

CRASH!

WAIT, GOBLINS ALMOST KIDNAPPED AND ATE YOU?! THAT'S HOW YOU ENDED UP HERE?!

Oink oink oink!

PIM PIM, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME BEFORE?!

ANOTHER BOWLER'S COMING THIS WAY!

HOG RIDERS!

POW!

TERRODICUS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

THE GOBLINS ARE ON OUR TEAM!

WHAT?!

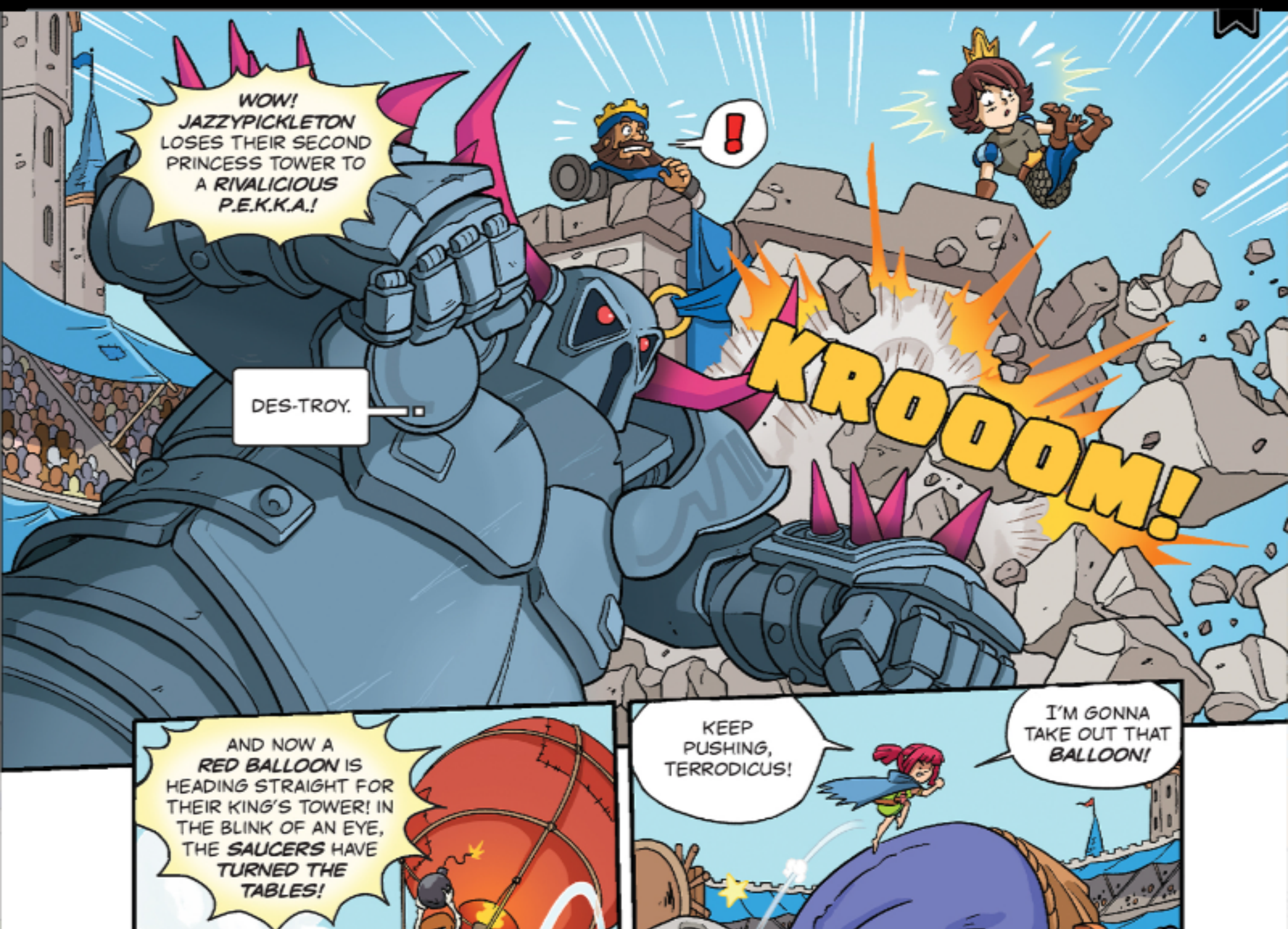
I SPEAK GOBLIN, YOU KNOW!

UFF!

LOGGG!

PAM THE LOG! THANK YOU!

ANY-TIME, JANE!


WOW! JAZZYPICKLETON LOSES THEIR SECOND PRINCESS TOWER TO A RIVALICIOUS P.E.K.K.A.!
!
DES-TROY.
KROOOM!
AND NOW A RED BALLOON IS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THEIR KING'S TOWER! IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, THE SAUCERS HAVE TURNED THE TABLES!
YIKES!
POM!
POM!
KEEP PUSHING, TERRODICUS!
I'M GONNA TAKE OUT THAT BALLOON!
FWIP!

KABOOM!

EGADS!

YAAAAH!

CRAP. TOO LATE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU *EXPLODED* IT!

YEAH, BUT NOT BEFORE IT GOT RIGHT UP TO OUR *KING'S TOWER.* WHEN A *BALLOON* EXPLODES—

—IT DROPS A *BOMB.*

E

FREAKING

GADS!

AND WHEN THE *BOMB* EXPLODES—

TICK TICK TICK TICK

—OUR KING'S TOWER IS *FINISHED.*

TO LOSE AGAINST ***RIVALICIOUS***... THEY'RE THE ***LITERAL WORST.***

YOUR ***ARCHENEMIES.***

YEAH. OUR ***ARCHENEMIES.***

PIM PIM, LOOK! ***A MORTAR!***

Oink oink?

I KNOW, I KNOW! IT'S NOT THE TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER WAY, BUT IT'S OUR ***ONLY CHANCE!***

Oink!

TERRY! PIM PIM! WHAT ARE YOU—?!

ANY SECOND NOW...

HA HA!

SQUEE!

A CANNONBALL MADE OF ***MEAT,*** JUST LIKE LAST TIME!

?

READY, LITTLE BUDDY?

OINK!

LET'S GO GET IT!

WHAT THE—?! THE CUCUMBERS'S HOG RIDER COMES OUT OF NOWHERE TO ABSOLUTELY DEMOLISH THE RIVALICIOUS KING'S TOWER!

HOG RIDER!

SMASH!

MMPH!

YEEEEEAAAAAH!

MATCH OVER!

THE CUCUMBERS WIN!

AND MERE SECONDS BEFORE THE SAUCERS'S BOMB EXPLODES!

WE WON!!!

HA HA!

TICK TICK TIC--

KABOOM!

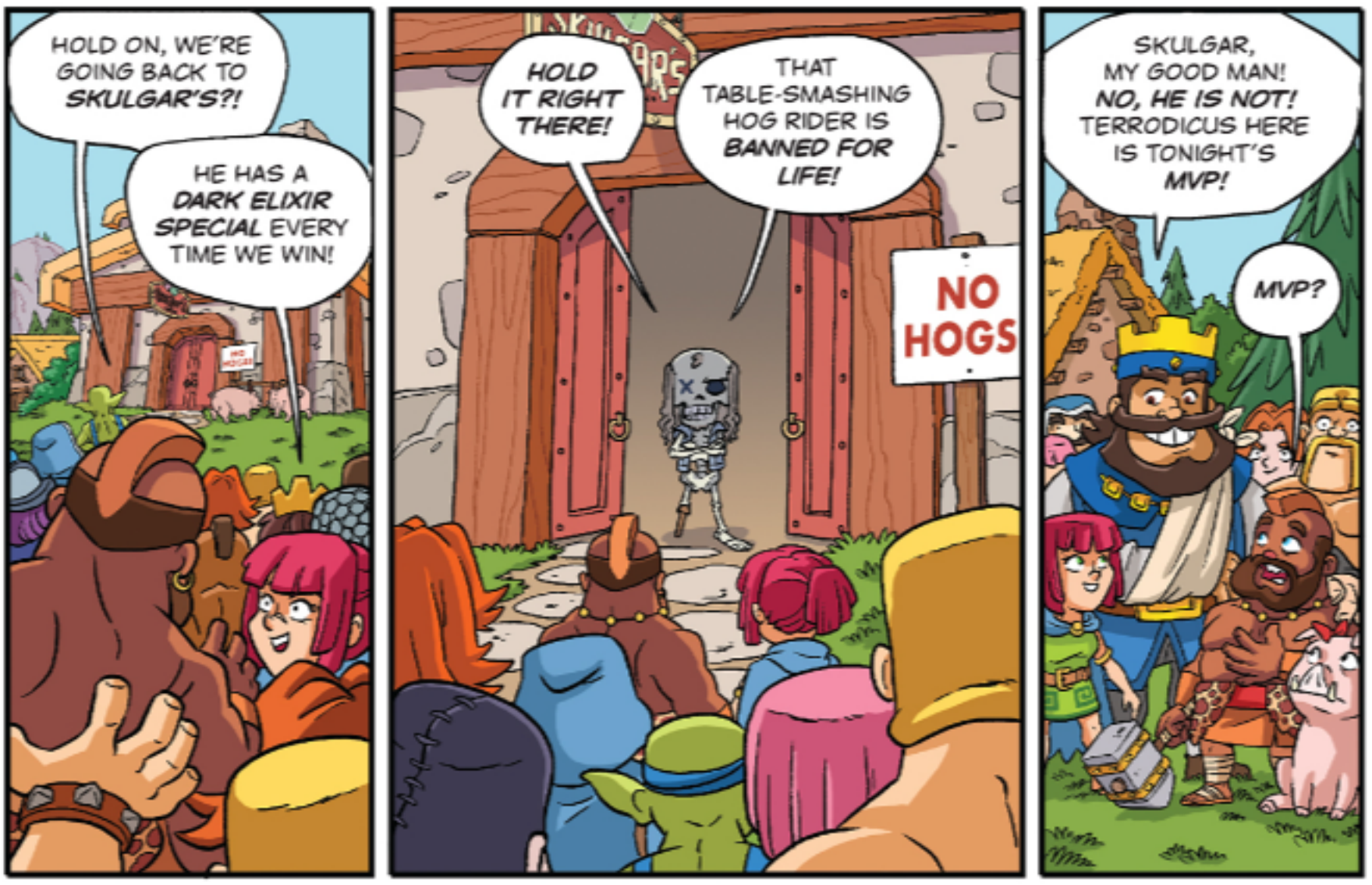
TICK TICK TICK TICK

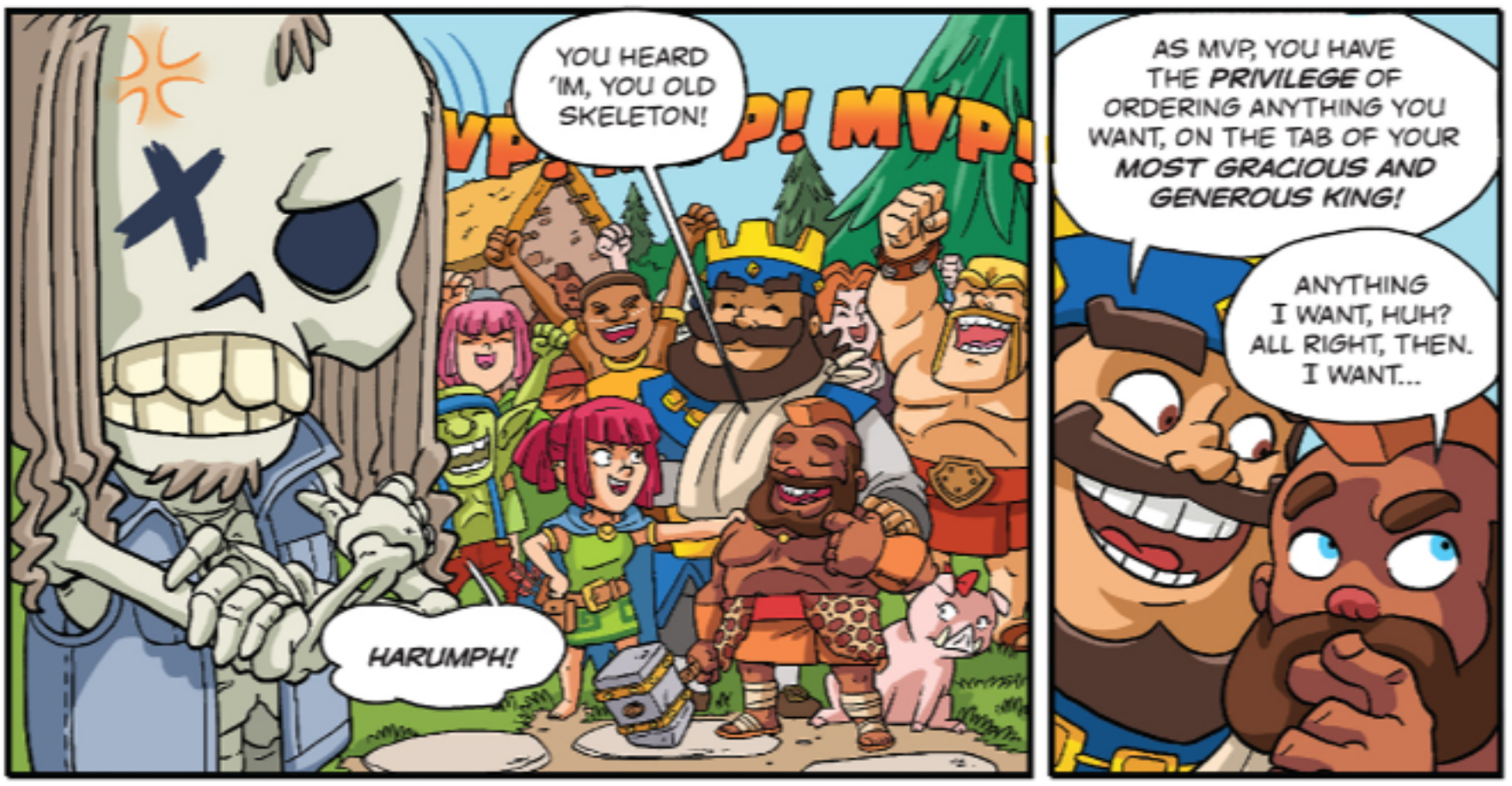
:GASP!:

OH MY SWINGIN' CLEAVERS! YOUR MAJESTY, YOUR ARM—!

WHO CARES?! WE WON!!!

JAZZYPICKLETON!
HA HA! IS THIS GREAT, OR WHAT?
Oink!
JAZZYPICKLETON!


HOLD ON, WE'RE GOING BACK TO SKULGAR'S?!
HE HAS A DARK ELIXIR SPECIAL EVERY TIME WE WIN!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
THAT TABLE-SMASHING HOG RIDER IS BANNED FOR LIFE!
NO HOGS
SKULGAR, MY GOOD MAN! NO, HE IS NOT! TERRODICUS HERE IS TONIGHT'S MVP!
MVP?


YOU HEARD 'IM, YOU OLD SKELETON!
MVP! MVP!
HARUMPH!
AS MVP, YOU HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF ORDERING ANYTHING YOU WANT, ON THE TAB OF YOUR MOST GRACIOUS AND GENEROUS KING!
ANYTHING I WANT, HUH? ALL RIGHT, THEN. I WANT...

THAT SIGN!

NO HOGS

THAT'S NOT A *MENU ITEM,* YA GOOBER!

WHAT DO YOU WANT A *SIGN* FOR? TRY A MUG OF THE *DARK ELIXIR* INSTEAD. TRUST ME.

HE WON US THE *MATCH,* SKULGAR! YOU'RE ABOUT TO MAKE *BUCKETS OF GOLD* TONIGHT!

THANK YOU!

:Grumble:

NO HOGS!

SMASH!

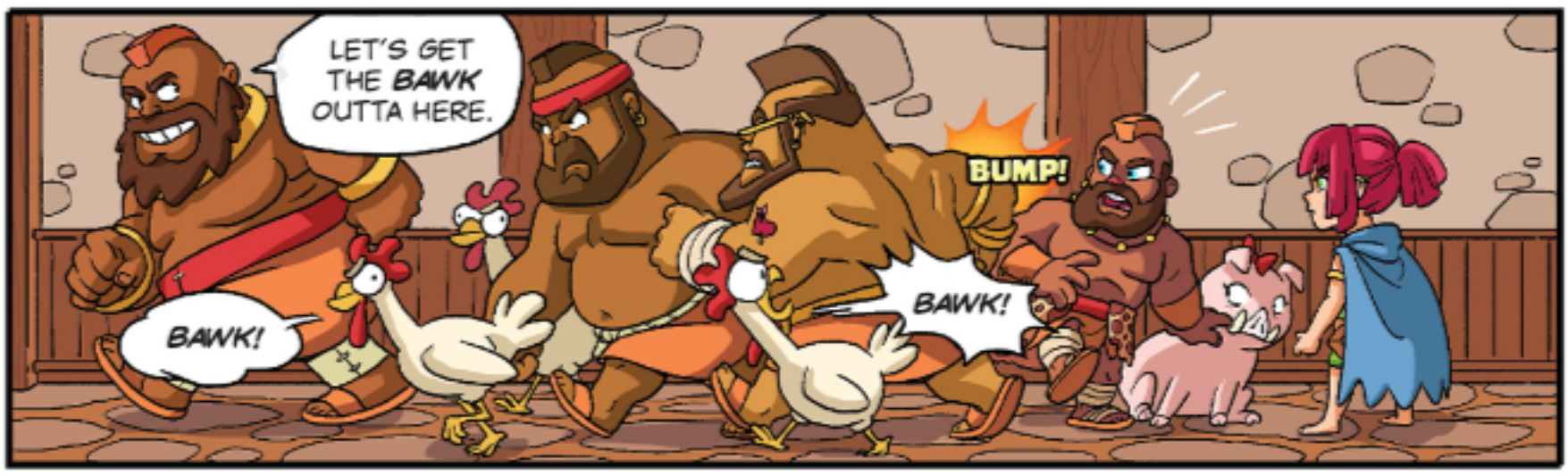
YEEEAH!

BAWK!

YOU FIXIN' TO BAWK UP THIS TABLE, TOO, NEWBIE?
MY NAME IS TERRODICUS, JERKWAD! YOU FOOLS ARE STILL HERE?!

YOU BEST STEP THE BAWK BACK, TERRODICUS!
MAYBE YOU OUGHTA STEP BACK, NED. YOU'RE DISRESPECTING TONIGHT'S MVP.

TED, FRED, YOU HEAR THAT?! THEY LET SOME NEW RECRUIT HOG RIDER ON THE CLASH ROYALE TEAM!
LEARNING THESE GUYS' NAMES JUST MADE THEM EVEN UGLIER TO ME.
THEY SURE DID.
TED
NED
FRED


LET'S GET THE BAWK OUTTA HERE.
BAWK!
BUMP!
BAWK!

AFTER THOSE "HOG" RIDERS LEFT, PIM PIM AND I HAD THE BEST NIGHT EVER!

ANOTHER ROUND OF ELIXIR FROM YOUR MOST GRACIOUS AND GENEROUS KING!

CAN I GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH?

YOU SERIOUS?

MAKE IT OUT TO ROGER THE BUILDER.

YOU'RE THE FIRST BUILDER I'VE EVER MET WHO'S NOT LAMENTING!

Autograph

ROGER IS THE FIRST BUILDER I'VE EVER MET, PERIOD.

HOW CAN I LAMENT WHEN YOU WERE SO SPECTACULAR ON THE FIELD?!

ROGER

Autograph

[illegible]

[illegible]

THE GOBLINS ARE THERE, TOO, BUT I MOSTLY IGNORE 'EM.

Oink oink oink oink!

RAAAR!

PIM PIM HANGS OUT WITH THE BABY DRAGONS, TRADING STORIES ABOUT FLYING THROUGH THE AIR.

ME, I GOT TO KNOW THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE *CUCUMBERS.*

I GOTTA SAY, TERRODICUS, THE WAY THAT *HOG* OF YOURS TOOK OUT *THAT KING'S TOWER— OH MY SWINGIN' CLEAVERS!* IT'S LIKE YOUR HOG'S GOT A *CANNONBALL* FOR A *BUTT!*

♫ ♩ ♫ ♪ LOGGG! ♪

SONNY MAKE ZEKE A *GIFT.*

WHAT GIFT?

CANNON*BALL?* MORE LIKE *CANNONBUTT!*

HA HA! YOU'RE A REAL *CRACK-UP,* TERRODICUS!

SUCH A CRACK-UP.

SONNY FIND *PRETTY CRYSTALS* GROWING IN *ARMPIT!* BREAK OFF AND GIVE TO ZEKE! TOKEN OF *FRIENDSHIP!*

SONNY

PAM

YOLANDA

ZEKE

SONNY, I'M TRYING TO *EAT* HERE!

WE SPENT THE NIGHT *TALKING* AND *LAUGHING* AND *RELIVING THE MATCH.*

EVEN SKULGAR CAME AROUND.

CANNONBALL? MORE LIKE CANNON-BUTT!

HA HA! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, TERRODICUS!

Y'KNOW, BACK IN MY DAY, I USED TO BE QUITE THE ROYALE LEGEND MYSELF!

MY CAREER ENDED ONE FATEFUL MATCH—

OINK!

AIYEEE!

—WHEN A ROYAL HOG SENT MY POOR LEG INTO A RIVER OF LAVA!

NOW, EVERY TIME A HOG GETS TOO CLOSE AND STARTS MAKIN' A RACKET, THE LIMBS I STILL GOT ALL GO INTO HIDING OUTTA FEAR.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

LET ME SHOW YA.

HEY, HOGGY. OINK AT ME, LOUD AS YOU CAN.

?

GO ON.

OIIINK!

ZIIIP!

ZIIIP!

ZIIIP!

ZIIIP!

FUDGE BISCUITS!

I WASN'T TRYIN' TO BE MEAN WITH THAT SIGN OUT FRONT. I WAS JUST BEIN' PRACTICAL.

BE RIGHT BACK, EVERYBODY! THE *MV* HAS GOTTA GO *P!*

SEE WHAT I DID THERE? *HA HA!*

HA HA! YOU'RE SUCH A *CRACK-UP,* TERRODICUS!

"THE MV HAS GOTTA GO P"!

I *AM* A CRACK-UP!

AND THAT'S WHEN I SEE IT.

EVEN THOUGH I NEVER GOT A GOOD LOOK AT IT, I *RECOGNIZE* IT IMMEDIATELY.

THE SECRET WEAPON OF JAZZYPICKLETON.

GET LOST ON THE WAY TO THE **POTTY,** TERRODICUS?

JANE!

NO! I WAS JUST— JUST—

AH. ADMIRING SKULGAR'S ***BATTLE MACHINE.***

SO THAT'S WHAT IT'S CALLED.

A BATTLE MACHINE!

DID HE BUILD IT HIMSELF?

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? SKULGAR CAN'T BUILD ANYTHING MORE COMPLICATED THAN A ***TRIPLE-DECKER TURKEY-AND-PICKLES CLUB SANDWICH.***

THE BUILDER, THEN? WHAT'S HIS NAME... ***ROGER?***

I DON'T THINK SO. RUMOR HAS IT, SKULGAR GOT IT FROM ***A FARAWAY PLACE.***

WHAT FARAWAY PLACE?

NOBODY KNOWS. NOBODY ***ASKS,*** EITHER.

WE'RE JUST ***GRATEFUL*** HE'S GOT IT. KEEPS JAZZYPICKLETON ***SAFE*** SO MOST OF US CAN CONCENTRATE ON ***ROYALE.***

WHO SITS HERE?

WHO DO YOU THINK? SKULGAR AND ***ONLY*** SKULGAR. HE WOULDN'T LET ANYONE ELSE DRIVE IT, EVEN IF HIS LIMBS DEPENDED ON IT.

MIND IF I CUT AHEAD OF YOU?

WHAT? ***OH YEAH.*** SURE, SURE.

JANE OFFERED FOR PIM PIM AND ME TO SLEEP ON HER FLOOR, BUT SLEEPING INDOORS ISN'T THE ***TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER WAY.***

PROBABLY SHOULD'VE ASKED IF MAKING A ***FIREPIT*** ON HER ROOF WAS OKAY, BUT SHE'D ALREADY TURNED IN FOR THE NIGHT.

PIM PIM IS OUT LIKE A ***LOG***—THE NORMAL KIND OF LOG, NOT THE KIND THAT SINGS IN A BAND.

HER TORSO IS AS PILLOWY SOFT AS ALWAYS, SO I DON'T GET WHY I CAN'T ***FALL ASLEEP.***

THEN IT HITS ME.

I DID IT.

I FOUND THE ***SECRET*** TO BEATING THE ***SECRET*** WEAPON! I NOW KNOW THE ***SECRET*** WEAPON'S ***SECRET,*** WHICH CAN BE ***SECRETLY*** USED TO TURN THE ***SECRET*** WEAPON AGAINST ITSELF!

JAZZYPICKLETON'S SECRET WEAPON IS THE ***BATTLE MACHINE.***

WHICH IS PILOTED BY A SKELETON NAMED ***SKULGAR.***

Skulgar

Battle Machine

WHOSE LIMBS ARE DEATHLY AFRAID OF ***LOUD HOGS.***

TO BEAT THE SECRET WEAPON, ALL I GOTTA DO IS GET A ***HOG*** RIGHT UP TO SKULGAR—

—AND HAVE HER ***OINK*** AS LOUD AS SHE CAN.

OINK!!

Pim Pim

MVP

me

AAAH!

AS SOON AS SKULGAR'S LIMBS FLEE, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO PILOT HIS OWN ***MACHINE.***

THEN SOMEONE ELSE CAN TAKE OVER—***ME,*** FOR INSTANCE—AND TURN THE ***BATTLE MACHINE*** AGAINST JAZZYPICKLETON!

I'LL BE THE ***M-EST, V-EST, P-EST MVP*** IN TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER HISTORY!

WHAT WAS IT THAT ***GRANNY POCUS*** SAID?

SECRETS GIVE YOU ***CONTROL.***

NO WONDER I CAN'T SLEEP. I HAVEN'T FELT THIS ***IN CONTROL*** OF MY LIFE IN A LONG, LONG WHILE.

MAYBE I DON'T HAVE TO BE IN SUCH A ***HURRY,*** THEN. MAYBE I CAN ***WAIT*** A WHILE, GET THEM TO ***LAUGH*** AT A COUPLE MORE OF MY JOKES.

CANNONBUTT.

Heh heh.

GET TO KNOW THE ***ENEMY*** A BIT MORE, Y'KNOW, BEFORE IT'S TIME TO FINALLY ***DROP THE HAMMER.***

BEFORE THE TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDERS ***COMPLETELY DEVASTATE*** JAZZYPICKLETON, STEAL ALL THEIR ***GOLD*** AND ***ELIXIR,*** AND LEAVE THEIR BUILDER—I MEAN, ***ROGER***— A ***BROKEN MAN.***

:SIGH.:

Chapter 3

NOT GONNA LIE, GIGAWATT. I COULD GET USED TO THIS.

HA! WHAT'D I TELL YA?

WHEN'S THE ***SUCCOTASH*** GONNA BE READY, GRANNY?

SOON, MY LOVELIES!

:GASP!:

YOU HEAR THAT?

WH-WHAT IS IT?!

RUSTLE!

HOGS, WHERE IS YOUR MASTER?

AAAH!

WHAT DID YOU DO?!

H-HE *REALLY* SCARED ME!

AW, *COME ON.* WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'VE BEEN ROLLING IN THIS WHOLE TIME?

WHO *DARES* DISTURB GRANNY POCUS'S *LOVELIES?!*

SOMEONE WHO DEMANDS ANSWERS FROM YOU, MOTHER WITCH!

I AM CAPTAIN ROKKUS OF THE TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDERS!
WHERE'S MY LITTLE BROTHER?

THE MATCH STARTS IN JUST A FEW MINUTES. EVEN HERE IN THE LOCKER ROOM, WE CAN HEAR THE ***CROWD*** BUZZING ABOVE US.

...AND AFTER THAT, I WANT ***SONNY*** TO ***TANK*** LEFT! ZEKE FOLLOWS! IF OUR OPPONENTS COUNTER WITH A ***SKELETON army*** —

I'LL GIVE 'EM ***WHAT FOR!***

THAT'S MY VALKYRIE!

HEY, IF THEY GOT A ***LUMBERJACK,*** NUDGE HIM OVER TO MY TOWER, OKAY?

I'VE GOT A THING FOR LUMBERJACKS.

GROSS.

TERRODICUS, THAT ***GLIDING ATTACK*** YOU AND PIM PIM DO? LET'S KEEP THAT A ***SECRET*** UNLESS WE NEED IT!

HOW COME?

YOU REALLY ARE THE ***NUMBEST*** OF NUTS SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW THAT?

ALL RIGHT, CUCUMBERS! WHAT IS IT THAT TERRODICUS ALWAYS SAYS?

LET'S GO GET IT!

WOW! WE'VE BARELY GOTTEN STARTED AND THE CUCUMBERS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN A TOWER! THE SUMMERDALE REFRESHERS ARE IN A WHOLE LOT OF TROUBLE!

SONNY MEAN NOTHING PERSONAL, PRINCESS!

OH, SHUT UP!

SMASH!

FWOOM!

FIREBALL!

LAAA!

WHACK!

I GOTTA SAY, I'M PRETTY *SHOCKED* BY THE CUCUMBERS.

ALL THESE *DIFFERENT KINDS* OF TROOPS ON ONE TEAM.

INCOMING GIANT!

GOT HIM!

HOG RIDER!

DEFINITELY *NOT* THE TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER WAY.

SMASH!

OINK!

BUT STILL—

NOT BAD, TERRY!

WHAT'D YOU CALL ME?

ER, YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU?

TERRODICUS IS JUST A STUPID NUMBER OF SYLLABLES.

NAH. I DON'T MIND.

PIM PIM AND I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO DO OUR ***GLIDING ATTACK*** TO WIN THE MATCH.

WE DO FOR THE NEXT ONE, THOUGH.

BUT NOT THE ONE AFTER THAT.

♫ LOGGG! ♫

OUR TEAM GOES ON A ***WINNING STREAK*** LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE. SOMETIMES PIM PIM AND I DO OUR THING.

SOMETIMES WE DON'T.

EITHER WAY, THE ***CUCUMBERS*** OF ***JAZZYPICKLETON*** ALWAYS COME OUT ON TOP.

AND THE CELEBRATIONS AFTER? THEY ARE *SOMETHING ELSE!*

ANOTHER ROUND OF ELIXIR FROM YOUR GRACIOUS AND MOST GENEROUS KING!

CHEERS, TERRODICUS!

CHEERS, ROGER!

SONNY GROW ***CRYSTALS*** ON BACKSIDE, GIVE TO TERRY! TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP!

OH... UH, I'M ***FLATTERED,*** SONNY, REALLY, BUT—

NOBODY WANTS YOUR BUTT CRYSTALS, SONNY!

FIREBALL!

!

FWOOOSH!

APPRECIATE THE ***SAVE,*** ZEKE.

HEY, ANY-TIME.

ANYONE SEEN *PIM PIM?*

PRETTY SURE OL' *CANNONBUTT'S* OUTSIDE.

HA! REMEMBER WHEN YOU CAME UP WITH THAT, TERRY? GOOD TIMES, GOOD TIMES!

ZEKE JEALOUS? HERE! SONNY GROW CRYSTALS HERE FOR ZEKE!

UGH.

LITTLE BUDDY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING ***OUTSIDE?*** WE GOT RID OF THE ***SIGN,*** REMEMBER?

Oink oink?

YEAH, WE'RE GONNA GO BACK TO TRIUMPHICA... ***EVENTUALLY.***

Oink oink!

SURE, I WANNA PROVE TO 'EM THAT WE'RE ***WORTHY,*** TOO!

LET'S JUST DO A FEW MORE MATCHES BEFORE WE GO, TO ***REALLY*** GET TO KNOW OUR ***ENEMY!***

Oink oink oink!

OF COURSE I REMEMBER OUR ***MISSION!***

DO YOU, THOUGH?

Chapter 3

HELLO, MY LOVELIES.

GRANNY POCUS! GIGAWATT!

Squeal!

FORGOT WHAT A HASSLE *WALKING* IS! MAN, AM I *POOPED!*

OH, I'VE MISSED YOU, TOO, PIM PIM!

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?!

HEY! CAN I GET A SWIG OF THAT *DARK ELIXIR?*

YOUR BROTHER CAME TO VISIT THE OTHER DAY, TERRY.

ROKKUS? HE WAS LOOKING FOR *ME?*

HE THINKS JAZZYPICKLETON *IMPRISONED* YOU.

WHICH WOULD DEFINITELY *NOT* BE THE TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER WAY.

!

SNATCH!

GULP!

HEY!

YOU'VE BEEN *FREE* ALL THIS TIME, ENJOYING THE ENEMY'S *DARK ELIXIR!*

YET YOU STILL HAVEN'T UNCOVERED THE *SECRET* WEAPON'S *SECRET?*

Oink oink oink!!!

WAIT... YOU FIGURED IT OUT YOUR *FIRST DAY* HERE?! THEN WHY HAVEN'T YOU GONE BACK?

I—I DON'T KNOW...

Oink oink!

MM! YOU KNOW WHAT THIS TASTES LIKE? *BETRAYAL.*

AND BETRAYAL TASTES *GREAT!*

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, ROKKUS IS PREPARING THE *TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDERS* TO ATTACK *JAZZYPICKLETON!*

HE'LL BE *COMPLETELY OVERPOWERED* BY THEIR SECRET WEAPON, SAME AS YOU WERE! AND WHEN HE DISCOVERS THAT HIS BROTHER—HIS OWN *FLESH AND BLOOD*—KNEW THE SECRET ALL ALONG—

—EARNING HIS *RESPECT* WILL BE THE *LEAST* OF YOUR WORRIES!

YOU MUST GO BACK, TERRODICUS—

"—TONIGHT!"

WHEN WE GET CLOSE TO THE TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER CAMPFIRE, WE'RE HIT WITH A FAMILIAR ***SMELL.***

Oink!

DARK ELIXIR MUFFINS!

UNTIL THIS VERY MOMENT, I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MUCH I MISSED ***TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER*** FOOD!

STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN USED TO HAVING ***PICKLES*** ON EVERYTHING.

Oooink!

MM! I KNOW, RIGHT?

EVERYONE'S ASLEEP...EXCEPT ***ROKKUS.***

HE ISN'T EVEN HERE!

PIM PIM!

:SNIFF! SNIFF!:

OINK!

ROKKUS...?

TERRY?

LITTLE BROTHER... YOU'RE ***ALL RIGHT!*** WE WERE PLANNING TO GO ON A ***RAID*** TOMORROW TO ***RESCUE YOU!***

I WAS SO ***WORRIED!***

UNTIL THIS VERY MOMENT, I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MUCH I MISSED MY BIG BROTHER.

AND SO ***ANGRY!*** HOW COULD A LEGENDARY— NAY, ***LEGENDARIOUSLY*** LEGENDARY—TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDER LET HIMSELF GET ***IMPRISONED?!***

IT'S JUST... ***EMBARRASSING!***

I TOLD YOU THAT LITTLE HOG OF YOURS—

PIM PIM AND I WEREN'T ***IMPRISONED,*** ROKKUS!

WE WERE ***SPIES.***

I TOLD HIM ABOUT THE VILLAGE.

ABOUT ***SKULGAR'S.***

ABOUT THE ***TROOPS*** I MET THERE.

ABOUT THE SECRET WEAPON KNOWN AS THE ***BATTLE MACHINE.***

ABOUT ***EVERYTHING.***

WELL, ***ALMOST*** EVERYTHING.

TROOPS ALL MIXED TOGETHER... I CAN'T EVEN ***IMAGINE*** LIVING IN A ***CESSPOOL*** LIKE THAT!

Y-YEAH. UH... ***YUCK.***

WHAT YOU DID TOOK ***COURAGE,*** LITTLE BROTHER.

I WANT YOU TO HAVE THIS.

B-BUT THIS IS ***YOURS!***

I'M ***CAPTAIN,*** REMEMBER? I CAN ALWAYS GET ANOTHER ONE.

PLUS, YOU'LL NEED IT WHEN YOU LEAD THE ***ATTACK*** AGAINST JAZZYPICKLETON TOMORROW MORNING!

WHAT?!

YOU AND YOUR HOG WORKED HARD TO UNCOVER THE ***SECRET*** OF JAZZYPICKLETON, TERRODICUS! YOU DESERVE THE ***RESPECT*** OF YOUR FELLOW HOG RIDERS!

AND TOMORROW, YOU'LL ***EARN IT!***

Squeal!

THAT, UH, SOUNDS LIKE A ***GREAT*** PLAN! ***SO, SO*** GREAT... BUT I THINK WE SHOULD ***HOLD OFF.***

BECAUSE, UM, WELLL... JAZZYPICKLETON, THEY...THEY'VE GOT A ***SECOND*** SECRET WEAPON!

REALLY?

?!

Y-YEAH, CAN YOU ***BELIEVE*** IT?

PIM PIM AND I GOTTA DO SOME MORE ***SPYING*** TO FIGURE IT OUT!

BUT WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE ALREADY TOLD ME—

WHEN IT'S TIME TO HAND JAZZYPICKLETON THEIR ***PANCAKES,*** I'LL GIVE YOU THE ***SIGNAL,*** OKAY?

PIM PIM AND I ARE GONNA GET BACK TO SPYING ON ALL THOSE ***MIXED-UP TROOPS.***

YUCK. AM I RIGHT?

BUT ONCE WE FIGURE IT OUT, I'LL GET IN TOUCH. ***PROMISE.***

???

JAZZYPICKLETON ISN'T ALL THAT FAR FROM TRIUMPHICA, BUT THE RIDE BACK FEELS *LONG.*

Oink oink?

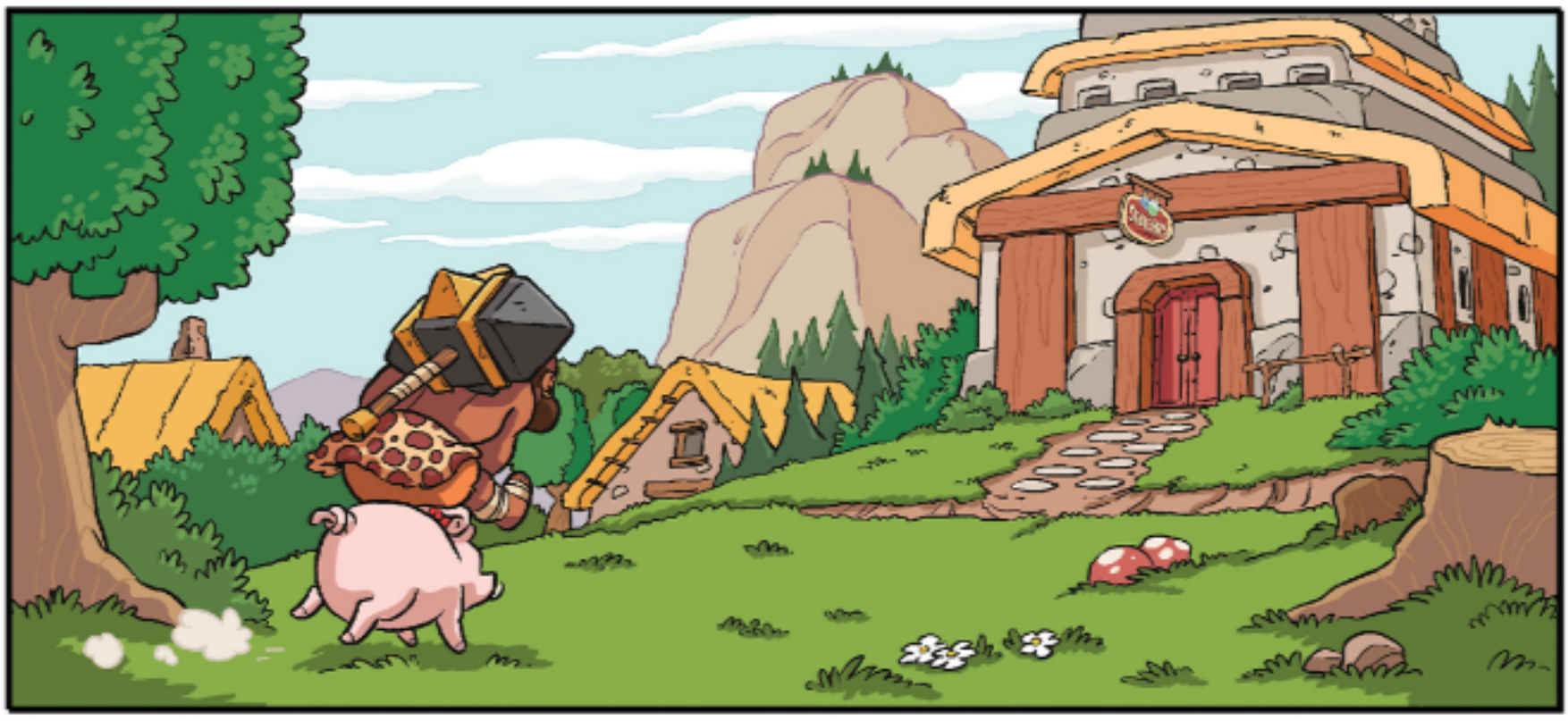
I DON'T KNOW... I JUST NEED TIME TO *THINK.*

Oink oink!

I KNOW... I *HAVE* WANTED ONE OF THESE FOR *FOREVER.*

:SIGH:

JAZZYPICKLETON



MORNING, EVERYBODY!
HEY, SKULGAR, YOU GOT AN *OVEN*, RIGHT? I WAS THINKING MAYBE PIM PIM AND I COULD BAKE UP SOME—

WHAT'S GOING ON?

NICE ***HAMMER,*** BIG GUY. WHERE'D YOU GET IT?

IS IT TRUE, TERRY?

WHAT JANE SAYS...

...ABOUT YOU AND PIM PIM BEIN' ***SPIES?!***

I'VE GOT A TALENT FOR ***SNEAKING,*** REMEMBER? I FOLLOWED YOU LAST NIGHT.

TERRY... ***TERRODICUS,*** I THOUGHT WE WERE ***FRIENDS!***

THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS ***LEVEL*** WITH ME!

I...

I...

WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!

WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!

...OU WON'T BELIEVE ...OLE ARMY OF HOG RIDE... ...ARE MARCHING OVER FROM... THE WEST! THEY'RE NOT LIK... THE HOG RIDERS WE'VE GOT... HERE IN JAZZYPICKLETON, NO... SIR! YOU KNOW THE ONES I'M... TALKING ABOUT! THEY USED TO HANG OUT AT SKULGAR'S ALL DAY WITH CHICKENS EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE CALLED HOG RIDERS, NOT ...HICKEN RIDERS! THE GUY... ...ARCHING OVER ARE CO... ...TELY DIFFERENT! TH... ...UALLY RIDING...

GEEZ. WHO PUT STACY ON MORNING WATCH?

THIS IS QUITE THE PICKLE, ISN'T IT?

NAH. SKULGAR'S GOT IT HANDLED!

YOU BET I GOT IT HANDLED! I'M GONNA GO REV UP THE BATTLE MACHINE!

WAIT, FROM WHAT STACY SAID, THE ATTACKERS SOUND LIKE THE LEGENDARY—

NAY, ***LEGENDARIOUSLY*** LEGENDARY HOG RIDERS OF TRIUMPHICA! LISTEN, I KNOW THEIR FORMATIONS—

YEAH, BECAUSE YOU'RE ***ONE OF 'EM!***

NO!

WELL... I MEAN, ***YEAH,*** B-BUT IT'S NOT LIKE ***THAT!***

SO IT ***IS*** TRUE, THEN.

WE'RE GONNA TAKE CARE OF THEM ***HOG RIDERS***... STARTING WITH THIS ***RAT*** RIGHT HERE!

TIE HIM UP!

LET US GO, PLEASE! I CAN HELP!

Finally! That ***dweeb*** is out of the way! We don't have many pages left, Chief, but we can ***still*** turn this story around and get back to the ***eye-smacking!***

I once again present to you the ***glory*** of Triumphica and the ***terror*** of their enemies!

Here come Triumphica's legendary—

—nay, ***legendariously*** legendary—

HOG RIDERS!

snort!

snort!

snort!

RUN!

FEATURING THE

ALL-STAR HOG RIDERS!

SMASHER THE SMOLDERING!

BLAMM THE BELLICOSE!

CRASHER THE CANTANKEROUS!

And the ***Captain*** of the Triumphica Hog Riders, standing at ***six-foot-five*** and weighing in at ***260 pounds*** of what we're reasonably sure is ***pure, unmedicated muscle***—

—the ***allest-star*** of the all-stars—

ROKKUS THE RAGEFUL!

NOOO!

LET'S GO GET IT!

UFF!

POW!

FIREBAL—Hrk!

POW!

LAAA—YOWCH!

Look at the Triumphica Hog Riders *go!*

POW!

Ha ha! That poor Archer thinks she has a *chance!*

WHAM!

HOG RIDERS OF TRIUMPHICA! WHAT IS *BEST* IN LIFE?!

TO CRUSH OUR *ENEMIES*—

CRUSHING YER ENEMIES, YA SAY?

I MIGHT KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT *THAT!*

KRA-BOOOM!

Whoa!

KRA-BOOOM!

You know what, though? I'm not ***worried.***

Because ***Rokkus the Rageful*** is about to step up!

C-CAPTAIN! THAT THING IS ***UNSTOPPABLE!***

NAH. MY BROTHER TOLD ME THE ***SECRET.***

HOP UP ON MY SHOULDERS, ROGG!

Snort!

WHAT IN THE...?

OIIINK!

ZIIIP!
ZIIIP!
ZIIIP!
ZIIIP!
ZIIIP!
ZIIIP!
ZIIIP!
ZIIIP!
OH NO!
ALL MY LIMBS!
AW, PICKLE NUGGETS!
POW!
Ha ha!

NO...

THIS IS ALL *MY FAULT.* THIS IS ON *ME.*

LET'S SEE HOW THIS THING WORKS!

SNORT!

AW YEAH!

HOG RIDER!

KA-BOOOM!

Grf!

SKULGRS
•TAVERN•
YRA-BOOOM!
WAAAH!
How's *that* for some *eye-smacking*?!

Wait. After all that, you're still gonna follow the dweeb?!

WATCH OUT, LITTLE BUDDY!

SMASH!

SQUEAL!

WE'RE FREE, BUT IT'S TOO LATE.

SKULGAR TAVERN

HEY, ROKKUS TOLD US ABOUT YOUR VISIT LAST NIGHT!

AND ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO THIS WHOLE TIME!

THIS IS YOUR WIN, TERRODICUS!

SKULGAR TAVERN

?

I NEED HELP, BUT THE CUCUMBERS ARE ALL DOWN!

I'LL HAVE TO FIND *SOMEONE ELSE.*

HOG RIDERS OF JAZZYPICKLETON! WE ARE BEING ATTACKED BY THE LEGENDARY— NAY, LEGENDARIOUSLY LEGENDARY— ***HOG RIDERS OF TRIUMPHICA!***

CHILL, NEWBIE. THAT'S WHAT SKULGAR'S BATTLE MACHINE IS FOR.

YOU GOT A LOT OF ***NERVE*** COMING HERE, AFTER SAYING ALL THAT ***BAWKED-UP*** STUFF ABOUT OUR ***FRIENDS!***

BAWK!

TRIUMPHICA JUST TOOK CONTROL OF SKULGAR'S ***BATTLE MACHINE!*** THEY'LL DESTROY EVERY BUILDING HERE, INCLUDING THIS ***COOP!***

WH-WHAT?!

OH NO... WE ARE ***BAWKED!***

NOT IF YOU START ACTING LIKE ***HOG RIDERS!***

BAWK?

BAWK?

STANDING IN A CIRCLE LIKE THIS IS WHAT THE TRIUMPHICA HOG RIDERS CALL THE ***MORTAL DONUT*** FORMATION!

FEELS WEIRD RIDIN' ON A ***HOG*** AGAIN.

A ***GOOD*** KINDA WEIRD.

ON THE COUNT OF ***THREE,*** YOU RIDERS ARE GONNA POUND THE END OF THIS PLANK WITH ALL YOUR ***MIGHT!***

ONE!

TWO!

HOG RIDERS!

THREE!

WHAM!

Squeee!

HA HA!

SMASH!

HOW *AWESOME* IS THIS?!

SNORT!

HOG RIDER!

=MMPH!=

What.

Just.

Happened?!

I...I don't know what to say.

I'm *speechless.*

TERRY...?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

TAKING DOWN ROKKUS FELT *GOOD.*

BUT I WISH IT *DIDN'T.*

ROKKUS, I...

I...

THE SECRET I FOUND ISN'T A MEMORY.

IT'S A *THOUGHT* YOU'VE NEVER SAID *OUT LOUD.*

I HATE YOU.

NO... THAT'S NOT *TRUE.*

I *LOVE* YOU, BIG BROTHER.

BUT I *HATE* TRYING TO *MEASURE UP* TO WHAT YOU *EXPECT* OF ME!

AND SOMETIMES, THAT *FEELS* LIKE I HATE *YOU.*

I'VE NEVER TOLD YOU THE *TRUTH.*

UNTIL *NOW.*

HECK, I'VE NEVER TOLD *ME* THE TRUTH.

ROKKUS, I DON'T BELONG IN *TRIUMPHICA.*

I BELONG HERE, IN *JAZZYPICKLETON.*

EVEN IF THAT MAKES US... *ENEMIES?*

YEAH.

EVEN IF THAT MAKES US *ENEMIES.*

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH!

STAND DOWN, HOG RIDERS OF TRIUMPHICA!

JAZZYPICKLETON WON THIS BATTLE, BUT WE'LL BATTLE AGAIN!

AND WHEN WE DO, WE'LL BE READY!

WE'RE GONNA HAND YOU YOUR PANCAKES SO FAST, IT'LL MAKE YOUR HEAD SPIN, TERRODICUS THE TRAITOROUS!

ESPECIALLY WITH YOUR PRECIOUS SECRET WEAPON ALL SMASHED UP!

WE'LL SEE!

THAT'S ONLY THEIR FIRST SECRET WEAPON, RIDERS. JAZZYPICKLETON HAS A SECOND.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, TERRODICUS THE TRUTHFUL?

SEE YOU ON THE BATTLEFIELD, ROKKUS THE RAGEFUL.

THE FAN-FAVORITE *JAZZYPICKLETON CUCUMBERS* ARE BACK AT THE ROYAL ARENA FOR ANOTHER ASTOUNDING MATCH!

WHOA! THAT'S IT, LITTLE BUDDY!

Squeal!

FWOOOSH!

THOK!

THANKS, JANE!

HEY, I'LL WATCH *YOUR* BACK—

—AND I'LL WATCH *YOURS!*

KING BERNARD WANTS ME AND SONNY TO PUSH ACROSS THE *LEFT BRIDGE.* WHO'S COMING?

ME! ME! ME!

I'M IN.

WE COULD USE YOU AND OL' CANNONBUTT, TERRY.

ALL RIGHT THEN, CUCUMBERS—

LET'S GO GET IT!

THE END...

...R IS IT???

I admit that I had it out for that dweeb Rider and his dweeb hoglet from the very beginning!

But then I came to realize that what Terry and Pim Pim did might serve to further my DIABOLICAL PLAN for ROYALE DOMINATION!

And the world will learn to fear King Roland the Red!

Hoo ha HA HA!

THE END!